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Laker liquidator wins the right from law lords to sue in US courts

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The liquidator of Laker Airways won the right in the House of Lords yesterday to go ahead with a multi-million pound claim against British Airways and British Caledonian in the United States courts.

The law lords' unanimous ruling gives hope to the 14,000 holidaymakers who lost a total of \$4m when Laker Airways collapsed two years ago.

It means that the liquidator can proceed with charges, delayed for a year, against the two airlines of conspiracy against American fair competition laws.

Welcoming the ruling yesterday, the liquidator, Mr Christopher Morris, of Touche Ross, chartered accountants, said: "I am very pleased. We are doing it to get back the money for the creditors."

But in a second unanimous ruling, the law lords dismissed Laker's challenge to the validity of orders made by the Secretary of State for Trade, preventing the two British airlines from complying with American court orders for documents without his consent.

Mr Morris denied yesterday that this was a handicap. "This does not really affect us. All the information we needed was exported prior to that order and is already in the United States."

As a result of the Lords' ruling, he added, a "substantial amount of the legal costs of this action", which approach £750,000, will be paid by the two airlines.

The legal action, in which Laker alleges the low-cost, no-frills "skytrain" operation was caused by a conspiracy between competitors, is expected to go ahead next year.

British Airways and British Caledonian are among many airlines being sued for \$1,050m damages (£600m).

As the majority shareholder, Sir Freddie Laker stands to benefit if the liquidator is successful in claiming damages over the company's £100m debts.

In his leading judgment yesterday, Lord Diplock said that Laker was so successful in attracting passengers from 1977 to 1982 that by the time of its collapse it was carrying one seventh of all air passengers between Britain and the United States.

Under American anti-trust (fair competition) laws, Laker alleges a conspiracy among other airlines to drive it out of business by means, first, of "predatory" air fares, or by loss-making fares to match Laker's.

Second, it alleges that some of the airlines put pressure on potential participants in a financial rescue scheme for Laker at the beginning of 1982 to withdraw their support and so prevent Laker's survival.

Mr Morris said yesterday that the judgment did not mean that Laker would win in the United States. "It was really a procedural side-show, a blocking tactic on behalf of the two defendants," Law report, page 12.



Happy memories: (left to right) Danny La Rue, Russ Abbott, Roy Hudd and Cardew Robinson attending the service for Tommy Cooper in London yesterday (Photographs: John Voos)

Magical memories of Tommy Cooper

Tommy Cooper, the comedian, had a final full house yesterday as stars, celebrities, family, friends and fans packed St Martin-in-the-Fields, London, for a service of thanksgiving.

Fellow magician Paul Daniels summed it up: "The clown is dead, but when you remember Tommy Cooper all you think of is laughter."

He gave the address at the service, a glowing tribute to the entertainer who died in April after a heart attack.

Tommy Cooper collapsed during his act in the ITV show *Live From Her Majesty's*, hosted by his close friend, Jimmy Tarbuck.

Paul Daniels said: "Tommy was one of the greatest comic entertainers of all time. I am a magician - and what Tommy did to my chosen art form is unbelievable. But in destroying it, he elevated it."

"He was just on this earth to make people laugh."

Among those present were Eric Morecambe's widow, Joan, Russ Abbott, Leslie Crowther, Cardew Robinson, Roy Hudd, Danny La Rue and Jill Gascoine.

Tommy Cooper's widow, Gwen, was accompanied by his daughter, Vicky, his brother, Dave, and his son, Thomas, who read the lesson.

The service was organized by the Grand Order of Water Rats, the showbusiness charity to which Tommy Cooper belonged for more than 20 years.

Anti-hunt league tests right to ban hounds

By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

The right of landowners to stop huntsmen letting hounds cross their property is to be fully tested for the first time in a legal case starting on Monday.

The League Against Cruel Sports is seeking an injunction against the Devon and Somerset Stag Hounds, the biggest stag hunt in the country, to prevent it allowing its hounds to cross the league's property on Exmoor.

The case is being keenly watched by the field sports supporters and opponents. Mr Richard Course, the league's executive director, said: "This will test for the first time before a High Court judge whether it is an offence against trespass laws to allow hounds to cross private property."

The case had implications for landowners throughout the country, with hunts starting again next month, he said.

The league has already obtained an interim order stopping the Devon and Somerset Stag Hounds cross its property and is seeking to have that order made permanent.

"To be successful, you have to have a track record of continual suffering and after dozens of court actions over the last ten years we think we can now establish that," Mr Course said.

The aim of the legal proceedings, to be heard before a High Court judge in Bristol, is to stop huntsmen getting round the law of trespass. One tactic allegedly employed is for huntsmen to go round the edge of one of the league's sanctuaries and blow a horn to pull the hounds through the middle, driving out wildlife.

But even where the hunt crosses the league's property and proceedings for trespass and brought, the law cannot stop them, Mr Course said.

"They simply pay £25 into court and if the judge awards less than that sum in damages, we end up paying all the legal costs on both sides."

The league has engaged leading counsel for the case, which is expected to cost about £20,000 and last several days.

Abolition of cinema levy welcomed

By Kenneth Gosling

Policies designed to provide the British film industry with potential for more growth and new creative talents and business skills were outlined in a White Paper published yesterday.

It proposes abolition of the Eady Levy on box office takings, transferring the National Film Finance Corporation to the private sector and the continuation of the National Film and Television School, at present supported by Eady funds, with financing from the cinema and the television companies.

The levy's abolition was welcomed by the Cinematograph Exhibitors' Association, but Mr David Puttman, the leading independent British film producer, said that the White Paper failed to compensate for the loss in the Budget of capital allowances.

Removing the Eady levy, in force since 1957 and which yields £4.5m a year, opens the way, the White Paper says, for an important abolition of statute and regulation, in particular removing the legislative basis for the cinema quota, established in 1927 to ensure the showing of a set proportion of British films. It was suspended in 1983.

On the measures to replace the NFCC, the Government has made outline arrangements with film, television and video organizations to provide annual contributions of £1.1m for three years to the new company, whose primary purpose will be to finance low-budget feature films involving largely British talent.

The National Film and Television School, supported by £500,000 a year from Eady funds, will continue with £500,000 a year for five years given jointly by the cinema, BBC and independent television companies.

Film Policy, Cmnd 9319, Stationery Office £3.15.

GP failed to visit sick children

By Tony Saunders

Dr David Rodgers, who failed to visit two seriously ill children one of whom died, was ordered to be struck off by the General Medical Council in London yesterday. He has 28 days to appeal.

The child who died first suffered a convulsion, while the other sustained brain damage after an emergency operation, the council's professional conduct committee was told.

In the two otherwise unrelated cases the committee found Dr Rodgers, aged 45, of Old Grammar School, Ramsey Road, St Ives, Huntingdon, guilty of serious professional misconduct.

Mrs Jocelyn Leggett of Norris Road, St Ives, was in tears as she told the committee of her efforts to get help for her daughter Charlotte, aged two years and six months, in May, 1982. The child had a temperature of 104° F, had difficulty walking or coordinating her movements, and was twitchy as if on the point of convulsion.

Dr Rodgers offered Mrs Leggett an 11 am appointment. Mrs Leggett said that she spoke again to Dr Rodgers later and was still concerned, but "by his attitude he seemed to be annoyed."

Earlier the tribunal had been told of an incident in October, 1981, when Malinka Head, aged eight, of Whitewoods, St Ives, had a burst appendix and peritonitis. Her mother, Mrs Nicola Head, said Malinka had been "best like a banana" but Dr Rodgers had told her to "treat it as a tummy bug."

In the case of Malinka Head, the doctor said he could not remember a telephone call.

Monuments harmed in treasure hunt

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Inc calculable damage may have been done to ancient monuments and sites by a "golden egg" treasure hunt promoted by Cadbury Schweppes, the Ancient Monuments Board for England says in its report for 1983-84.

The board, which has been superseded by the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission, says it is appalled to discover that by the end of March, 19 scheduled sites and monuments, and two unscheduled monuments, mostly in Cornwall, had been damaged. The offenders have not been found.

The report accepts that Cadbury Schweppes did not intend to encourage the disturbance of any site or monument. Legal action would not have been appropriate, as the company had specified that no casket was hidden on a site of archaeological importance.

It lists other sites and buildings damaged or under threat, including Stansted Castle, Essex; Sutton Hoe, Suffolk; Stonehenge; Temple Bar, Cogges mounted site and stone; medieval village, Oxfordshire; and Christchurch Priory, Dorset.

Ancient Monuments Board for England. Thirtieth annual report, 1983-84. (Stationery Office £6.00)

Detective used his finger to jam gun

A detective who used his finger to jam a bank robber's gun and prevent himself being shot displayed "outstanding and incredible courage", a judge at the Central Criminal Court said yesterday.

Detective Sergeant Stuart Bulger, aged 37, from Finchley, north London, was part of a police team that ambushed three escaping bank robbers in Kilburn. The getaway car was named and Sergeant Bulger leapt into the back seat and fought with Geoffrey Petherick, who was trying to pull the trigger of an automatic pistol.

The unarmed officer could see a bullet in the breach of the gun. He poked a finger into the mechanism, preventing it being fired, and finally overpowered Petherick, aged 25, of Aveley, Essex. Sergeant Bulger said of the struggle: "that was the most terrifying moment of my life. I thought my days had come to an end."

Petherick, Peter Padito, aged 23, also of Aveley, and Stanley Thompson, aged 37, of Ilington, were jailed for 15 years by Judge Petherick after conviction on robbery and firearms charges.

In 1980, Thompson had escaped from Brixton prison with the IRA terrorist, Gerrard Tuttle.

Four remanded again on Dikko kidnap charges

Three Israelis and one Nigerian were remanded in custody for a further week at Lambeth Magistrates' Court yesterday charged with kidnapping Alhaji Umaru Dikko, the former Nigerian minister, and administering drugs to him.

Two members of the Nigerian High Commission and Mrs Rifka Shapiro, the wife of one of the accused, were in court.

The four men charged with the kidnapping on July 5 are Dr Lev-Arie "Lou" Shapiro, aged 43, an Israeli consultant anaesthetist from Tel Aviv; Mr Alexander Barak, aged 27, an Israeli businessman from Lagos; Felix Abitbol, aged 31, a businessman from Netanya, Israel; and Mr Muhammad Yusuf, aged 40, a Nigerian diplomat.

During the week's remand the defendants' lawyers are to consider whether to make applications for reporting restrictions to be lifted.

Triumph over cancer

Officer Cadet Keith Ridley (right) received the Queen's Commission yesterday and became the first cadet with one leg to complete RAF Cranwell's tough initial officer training.

Officer Cadet Ridley, aged 28, who lost a leg through cancer, also won the Hennessy Trophy and the Philip Sassoon Memorial Prize for the best all-round cadet of the 96 who graduated this week.

He joined the Royal Air Force as an electronics operator at the age of 20. Two years later he was told he had cancer and within six weeks his right leg was amputated after treatment failed. He now has an artificial leg.

He fought hard to stay in the RAF and narrowly avoided being discharged. Later he saw active service in the Falkland Islands conflict, operating electronic surveillance equipment in a Nimrod anti-submarine aircraft.

Computers plan for health care

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

A £25m investment in computers by 1990 to help run medical services would produce savings of £10m a year and open the way for big improvements, according to a report published yesterday by the Department of Health.

The computers, to be used by Family Practitioner Committees, could lead to a machine-readable card, replacing the existing medical card, to facilitate transfer of patient records, help chemists notice possible drug interactions and replace the existing organ donor card.

Computerization could help to link district health authority planning with family doctor services, so improving efficiency and planning.

Detailed safeguards to ensure patient confidentiality would need to be provided, however, the report says.

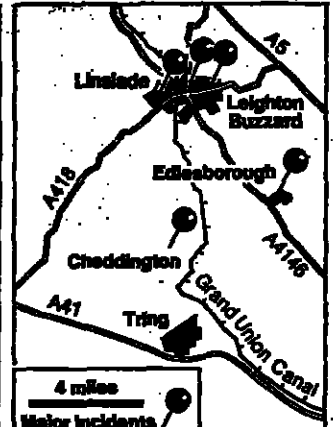
Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister of State for Health, said yesterday he was satisfied that the report pointed in the right direction, though the speed of implementation would depend on availability of resources.

The report sets out a three-stage programme which could halve the number of administrative staff.

Stage one would involve computerizing the committees and linking them with new computer systems.

Stage two would link the committees' computers to computers in doctors' surgeries.

The third stage could involve such innovations as a machine-readable medical card.



Alarm calls in 'Fox' hunt

Police hunting the rapist nicknamed "the Fox" are dealing with between 20 and 30 alarm calls each night from householders and farmers in the triangle on the edge of the Chilterns where the man has attacked in the past four months. (Our Crime Reporter writes)

A police spokesman said yesterday that all calls were investigated but none had so far been linked with the wanted man. Each night police have organized contingency plans to respond to calls and question witnesses, supported by an Army helicopter equipped for night flying.

The police are still considering a plan to start blood tests on 8,000 men within the area's 35,000 population.

Hambro tops charity league

By Kenneth Gosling

Hambro Life Assurance, which has given £1m to local charities since it set up in Swindon 12 years ago, is singled out on a survey published by the Director of Social Change as the company that gives charity the largest proportion of its pre-tax profits.

Last year the company made 240 grants to 200 local organizations, covering every social welfare need from pre-school playgroups to the confused elderly. Its charitable efforts, that draw in every member of its staff, places it fourth in the list of the top 1,000 donors with a figure of £483,000; but more significantly, according to the survey, it gives to charity nearly 2 1/2 per cent of its pretax profits, a higher proportion than any other company.

Mr Des Palmer, the trust's administrator, says that Hambro's has a three-pronged approach to its charity funds.

There is the charitable trust which gets a covenant on an annual basis based on the company's surplus; the income of that fund this year will be well over £300,000. Then there is the staff charity fund, producing £40,000 from our 1,200 staff at Swindon.

"Finally there is the sales force foundation, which raises £150,000 a year from the 3,000 or so sales people spread throughout the country. Well over two-thirds of the money that comes from the staff is by deeds of covenant: 45 per cent of the staff have taken out deeds which are matched by the company."

While Swindon is still the focal point for these charitable efforts, the company is getting involved in other parts of the United Kingdom and the Third World.

Hambro also tries to help less popular causes such as mental illness and ethnic minorities.

Top twenty companies giving donations to charity. Proportion of pre-tax profits in brackets:

1. Barclays Bank (0.5-0.9)	2. British Petroleum (0.5-0.9)
3. British Airways (0.5-0.9)	4. British Telecom (0.5-0.9)
5. Shell UK (0.5-0.9)	6. Unilever (0.5-0.9)
7. British Gas (0.5-0.9)	8. British Overseas Airways (0.5-0.9)
9. British Airways (0.5-0.9)	10. British Overseas Airways (0.5-0.9)
11. British Airways (0.5-0.9)	12. British Overseas Airways (0.5-0.9)
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19. British Airways (0.5-0.9)	20. British Overseas Airways (0.5-0.9)



Ethiopia, Africa, at this very moment.

Monthly Income Deposit Account

With effect from 16th August 1984 interest on Midland MIDAS Accounts will be increased by 2 1/4% to 10 3/4% per annum.

Midland Bank

Midland Bank plc, 27 Poultry, London EC2P 2BX

Parents are cleared of cruelty to baby

Mr David Arthur and his wife, Lynda, were found not guilty yesterday of cruelty to their two-month-old daughter, Kimberley.

"After the jury's verdict Mr Justice Hodgson said: "It may be some slight consolation to Mr and Mrs Arthur to say I entirely agree with your verdict. This is one I would unhesitatingly have arrived at."

Mrs Arthur, aged 32, from Ness, Wirral, was earlier acquitted on the judge's direction of intentionally inflicting grievous body harm to the child, now aged 18 months. The trial at Chester Crown Court, lasted three weeks.

Mr Arthur, aged 39, a pursuer in the Merchant Navy and his wife are to appear before Ellesmere Port magistrates today, when an interim care order on the child held by Cheshire County Council social services department expires.

The child, who is blind and mentally retarded, has lived with foster parents since March 1983.

The social services department said yesterday that its solicitor would decide whether it was in the child's interest to seek a further care order or for her to be returned to her parents.

"It is not automatic that parents of children in care have to have been convicted of cruelty. So it is not automatic that the baby will be returned to her parents without a court order."

Mr Arthur would not comment on whether they would seek their daughter's return.

Trainee nurses 'lack numeracy'

An alarmingly high proportion of student and pupil nurses cannot cope with quite basic mathematics which could be a matter of life and death for patients, according to a report in *Nursing Standard*, journal of The Royal College of Nursing.

A study by Dr Sue Fieffe, a lecturer in mathematical education at Oxford University, of 500 nurses in training has shown that many were having a great deal of difficulty with basic concepts such as the SI units in which some drugs are dispensed, percentages, decimal division and conversion of decimals to fractions.

Africa starves

For 5m Ethiopians, the rains and the crops have failed. Famine is upon them. Of the 900,000 tons of food needed, other countries have so far pledged 125,000. What that shortfall means, says Dr Kenneth King (UN Development Programme) is - "Death or half-life for 86% of the needy." Right now, World Vision has four active Famine Relief projects in this desperate country - at Kembata, Wolayita, Kibbo and Lasta. We can get your help direct to 50,000 starving and ill people, by air and by road. \$20 will bring supplementary feeding to 3 more little children. \$225 helps us rush a jeepload of food to a hungry village. \$200 equips one Ethiopian medical aide to help her own people.

Here is my cheque made out to World Vision for £

Name M

Address

To World Vision, 8 Abington St, Northampton NN1 2AU

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World Vision Practical Christian Caring

Film industry to be freed from Government intervention

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Can Alain Prost and Niki Lauda do it again at Sunday's British Grand Prix? So far this season, between them they have crossed the line first five times, taking Marlboro McLaren to the front of both the Drivers and Car Constructors Championships.

Prost and Lauda would be the first to tell you that keeping out in front is very much a team effort.

It's plain to see on the nose of the McLaren that one British company has been an important part of that team. It's a British company that is used to being out in front. That company is Unipart.

Today the way to success in Formula One is turbo. The turbo creates unrivalled power, but it also creates tremendous temperatures. McLaren knew that controlling the turbo's searing heat would be crucial to their success. It was at this point that Unipart came in.

Unipart engineers designed, developed and produced a new radiator core of brazed aluminium. The new Unipart radiator not only dealt effectively with excess heat, but was also lighter and smaller, giving McLaren engineers greater design flexibility.

A flexibility that would help develop the key competitive edge which can make all the difference in the intensely competitive world of Formula One.

The expertise applied to cooling Formula One cars

is also behind a multi-million pound investment in one of Unipart's factories.

Here, on assembly lines managed by computers and robots, some of the world's most advanced radiators are built for Europe's latest production line cars.

Unipart's desire to keep McLaren out in front reflects the company's commitment to excellence. A philosophy that extends to all its products.

Every Unipart product has to meet the company's high standard of engineering, and rigorous quality control.

The premium Samson Battery, for example, is so reliable that it's guaranteed for as long as you own your car.

Other products like Anti-Freeze and Oil Filters are established brand leaders.

High quality is accompanied by a continuing search for improvement. Recent developments include a new range of Unipart brakes that set new standards for the entire industry.

Unipart's range of regularly replaced parts now covers over 90% of the cars on British roads.

And with an incredible 95% of all Unipart Group products being sourced in this country, Unipart's success is not only good for Unipart but good for Britain too.

So remember, whatever car you drive, you can be confident of the parts, if the parts are Unipart.

After all, McLaren are.

Unipart.

Where else, but out in front.



Fabius appoints Cabinet without Communists after the alliance splits

From Diana Geddes, Paris

As the French Communist Party ended 27 months of stormy alliance with the Socialists and decided to leave the Government yesterday, the new Prime Minister, M. Laurent Fabius, gave the key post of Minister of Finance to his new Cabinet of 16. M. Pierre Bérégovoy, the former Minister for Social Affairs, M. Bérégovoy began work at the age of 16 in a factory.

Perhaps the greatest surprise in M. Fabius's choice of ministers are the retention of M. Claude Cheysson as Foreign Minister and of M. Roland Dumas as Minister for European Affairs and official Government spokesman.

It had been widely expected that M. Dumas, who is a close friend of M. Mitterrand and is considered to have done an excellent job during his short spell as European Minister during the French presidency of the EEC, would have been rewarded with a more senior post, possibly replacing M. Cheysson or even being appointed Prime Minister.

The other big surprise is the reappearance of M. Jean-Pierre Chevènement, leader of the left-wing Ceres faction of the Socialist Party, after a 16-month absence from Government.

His new post is Minister of Education, which is a key post in the economic field. It is also an important one, as it is the only one which is not shared with the Communists.

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THE NEW MINISTERS

Planning and Regional Development: Gaston Defferre; Justice: Robert Badinter; Economy, Finance and Budget: Pierre Bérégovoy; Foreign Affairs: Claude Cheysson; Defence: Charles Hirsch; Interior and Decentralization: Pierre Joxe; Agriculture: Michel Rocard; Industrial Development and Foreign Trade: Edith Cressat; Education: Jean-Pierre Chevènement; Social Affairs and National Solidarity: Georges Duthu; Youth, Planning, Housing and Transport: Paul Cabot; Commerce, Craft Trades and Tourism: Michel Crépeau; Movement des Radeaux de Gauche: European Affairs and Government Secretariat: Roland Dumas; Labour, Employment and Vocational Training: Michel Delebarre; Environment: Hugues Bouchardon; Paris: Socialist Left; Research and Technology: Hubert Curien.

M. Fabius no doubt hopes that M. Chevènement's left-wing credentials will help appease the large group of Socialists who are furious at what they regard as the Government's betrayal in deciding to drop its controversial bill to reform the predominantly Catholic private schools.

On the right of the Socialist Party, M. Michel Rocard, former rival of M. Mitterrand for the presidency, remains as Minister of Agriculture. It is understood that M. Rocard was offered the post of Prime Minister but declined it.

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under Léon Blum's National Front Government in 1936.

They intend to continue to form part of the Government majority in Parliament, and say they will vote for those projects which meet with their approval.

There is no question of a rupture of the union of the left, they insist, although it is difficult to see what is left of that union, beyond a common desire to prevent the right from returning to power.

The party's decision marks an important turning point in French politics. It will not, however, have any immediate effect on the Socialists' ability to govern. With their 283 deputies the Socialists have an absolute majority in Parliament and do not have to rely on the support of the 44 Communist MPs.

The Communists claim that their decision to leave the Government had nothing to do with the nomination of M. Laurent Fabius, the new Prime Minister, but with his expressed determination to continue to pursue the Government's policy of economic rigour, which they believe will inevitably lead to a further increase in unemployment.

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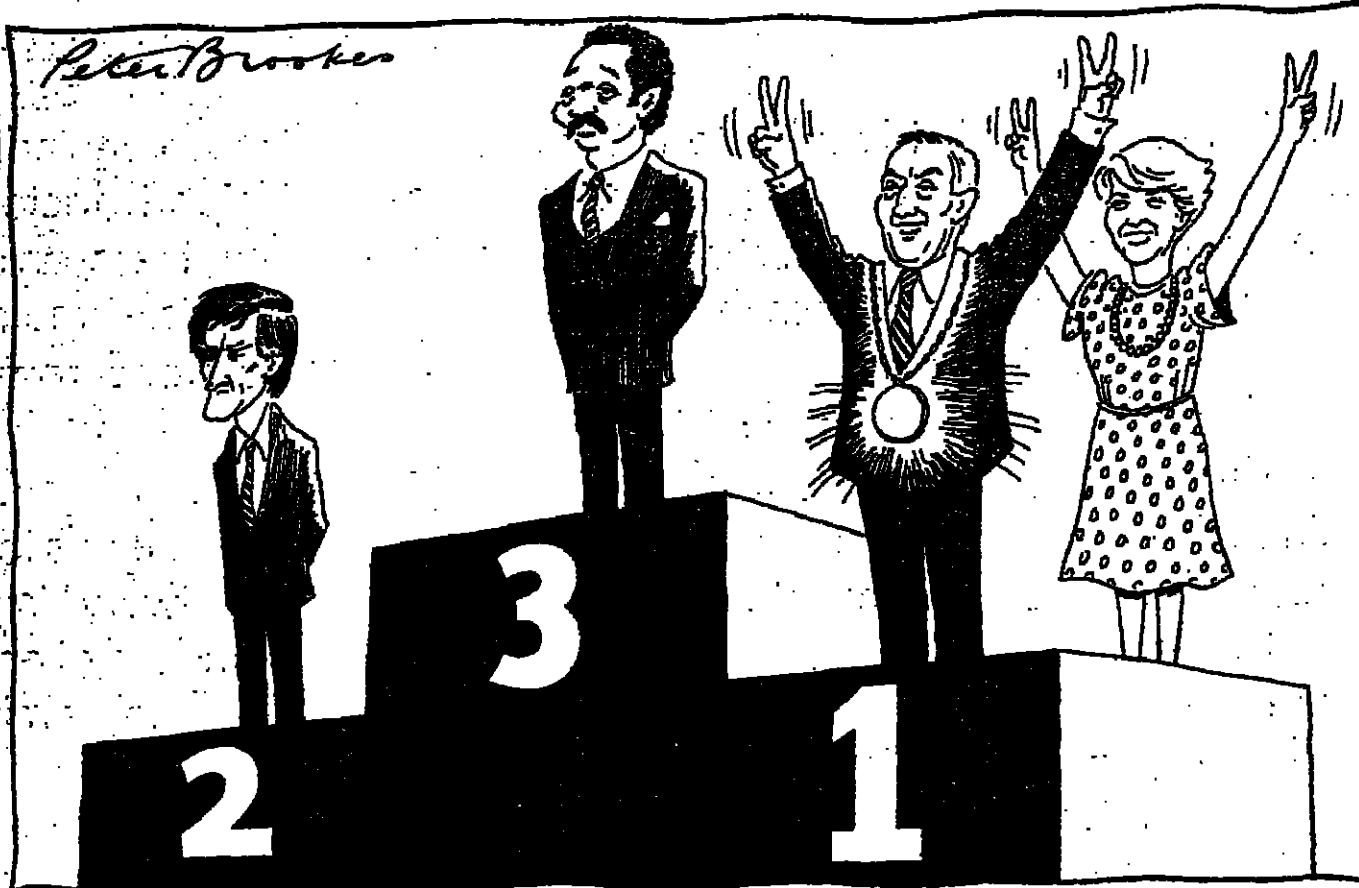
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Bridging the Mondale 'passion gap'

From Trevor Fishlock, San Francisco

Hubert Humphrey once wondered whether his protégé, Mr. Walter Mondale, had enough fire in his belly to go for the big prize. In today's jargon some people talk of the Mondale "passion gap", meaning his

Minnesota. Four years later he became a United States Senator, taking the seat vacated when Mr. Humphrey became Vice-President to Mr. Lyndon Johnson. In 1976 he himself became Vice-President.

It made the race, and Mr. Mondale, more interesting, but of course, it could never make him a charismatic figure. He can be an impressive speaker, but it is not in his personality to let go of the reins. He knows he has to push himself forward, but there is a sense that when he does so he goes against the old Norwegian grain.

It is hard for him that he does not easily project himself on television and that in the coming months he is up against a master of self-projection with a comfortable television image.

Mr. Mondale's career has been a series of cautious moves. He has always tested the plank gingerly before stepping on to it. He shrank from offering himself as a presidential candidate in 1972, saying he was not ready. His appointment of Ms. Geraldine Ferraro as running-mate is considered an uncharacteristically daring stroke.

The speeches from Mr. Mario Cuomo, the Rev. Jesse Jackson and Senator Gary Hart were not only reminders that the art of American political rhetoric is not dead. They were also notable contributions to this long-term struggle.

Mr. Cuomo's speech was a memorable celebration of the traditional values of the Democratic Party, the politics of Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman and Lyndon Johnson. In that sense it could be compared with Senator Edward Kennedy's remarkable speech to the 1968 convention in New York.

Mr. Jackson's speech on Tuesday was significant for blending the protest of blacks into the more general cry of the dispossessed. His achievement throughout the primary campaign was to mobilize the votes of blacks. But he did not do much more than that, which presented a dilemma both for him and potentially for the Democratic Party.

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Geoffrey Smith

Two struggles have been taking place in San Francisco this week. Mr. Mondale settled the immediate battle by winning the nomination comfortably enough in the end, despite the final flurry of excited speculation.

He has earned his crack at the presidency not through the compelling force of his ideas or the magic of his personality, but as a decent, experienced, thoughtful man who organized better and worked harder and longer than any of his rivals.

Not many Democrats, however, would give all that much at the moment for their chances of recovering the White House in November. So this convention has been about 1988 as well as 1984. Behind all the calls for unity there have been the beginnings of a new struggle for the future of the party.

SPECTRUM

THE TIMES

GUIDE TO THE BRITISH GRAND PRIX

Rocked once again by internecine strife, the Formula One circus heads for Brands Hatch. John Blunsden previews the race

Course of champions

Despite the shock of the Tyrrell team's threat of expulsion from the 1984 world championship, there is a widespread sense of relief amongst the Formula One fraternity that grand prix racing's focal point has returned to Europe. After several expensive weeks attempting to adapt their skills to the demands of bumpy street circuits lined with slabs of concrete, drivers can be consoled by the thought that the remaining seven rounds of the championship will be contested on circuits to which they and their machinery are better suited.

Yet no venue will test both more deeply than Brands Hatch's 2.6 miles of undulations, sweeping curves and challenging changes of camber over which the British Grand Prix, sponsored by John Player, will be contested on Sunday afternoon. Given dry conditions, the winner will be required to average more than 125mph over 75 flying laps, sustaining his concentration for more than an hour and a half.

As the accompanying table makes clear, only drivers of the highest calibre have won this particular race (all but two of the past winners have been world champions). It also has a tradition for providing close finishes - less than five seconds on four occasions. Along with its counterpart at Silverstone (the British Grand Prix has alternated between the two circuits since 1964), it is firmly established as the best organised of all the world championship rounds.

With the 1984 world championship now well past the half-way mark, some clear pointers have emerged as to the likely destination of this year's title. The McLaren team have emerged from the first nine races with no fewer than five outright victories - three by Alain Prost and two by Niki Lauda, and although their finishing record has slipped a little late, they are still a highly competitive team. The Brabham team's dismal run of misfortune was interrupted when the 1983 champion, Nelson Piquet, scored two consecutive victories in Canada and Detroit to prove that

this car, when reliable, has the legs of a champion. Michele Alboreto's victory in Belgium has been the Ferrari team's sole outright success this year, although René Arnoux's consistent finishing has sustained the Italian team as McLaren's closest challenger in the constructors' championship. The only other victory to date has been by Keke Rosberg in Dallas, where the special demands on the day helped to compensate for the current Williams' handling problems (which it is hoped a recent testing programme in Austria has done something to overcome). The most consistent performer this season has been Elio De Angelis, the Lotus driver, who has not only finished every race but has scored points in all but one of them.

On the negative side, Renault have failed to sustain their early season challenge, having been hindered by fuel consumption problems and more recently by a spate of accidents, while the thirst of the Alfa Romeo has also blunted their attack. Arrows are just emerging from a difficult transition from Ford to BMW power, and Toleman have also recovered from a difficult interlude and, helped considerably by Ayrton Senna's growing talent, are beginning to make their presence felt.

The Ligier have proved unexpectedly quick on occasion, but have lacked staying power, while the ATS has still to deliver the sort of results Manfred Winkelhock deserves. Osella scored their first points in Dallas but, along with the RAM and Spirit teams, they must continue to rely on the fragility of the front-runners for their success.

Which leaves the Tyrrell team, stunned by the FISA ruling this week and waiting to hear if the lodging of an appeal will permit them to race on Sunday. Martin Brundle's accident at Dallas was a bitter blow, but Stefan Johansson is a worthy choice as temporary replacement. Brundle's only consolation is that, like his team colleague Stefan Bellof, he has left no one in doubt as to his potential.



Entrant: Motor Racing Developments
Chassis/engine: Brabham-BMW BT55
Tyres: Michelin
Driver: Nelson Piquet (Brazil)
Age: 31; GP's: 67; Wins: 1; Points: 204
Car 2: T. de F. (Italy)
Age: 29; GP's: 15; Wins: 0; Points: 3

Entrant: Williams Grand Prix Engineering
Chassis/engine: Williams-Honda FW18
Tyres: Goodyear
Driver: Jacques Laffite (France)
Age: 35; GP's: 144; Wins: 8; Points: 187
Car 2: Keke Rosberg (Finland)
Age: 35; GP's: 75; Wins: 3; Points: 97

Entrant: Marlboro McLaren International
Chassis/engine: McLaren-TAG MP4/2
Tyres: Michelin
Driver: Alain Prost (France)
Age: 29; GP's: 85; Wins: 12; Points: 173 1/2
Car 2: Niki Lauda (Austria)
Age: 35; GP's: 130; Wins: 21; Points: 388 1/2

Entrant: RAM Automotive
Chassis/engine: RAM-Hart 102
Tyres: Pirelli
Driver: Philippe Alliot (France)
Age: 28; GP's: 6; Wins: 0; Points: 0
Car 12: Jonathan Palmer (Great Britain)
Age: 27; GP's: 8; Wins: 0; Points: 0

Entrant: John Player Special Team Lotus
Chassis/engine: Lotus-Renault 95T
Tyres: Goodyear
Driver: Elio De Angelis (Italy)
Age: 28; GP's: 81; Wins: 1; Points: 78 1/2
Car 12: Nigel Mansell (Great Britain)
Age: 29; GP's: 52; Wins: 0; Points: 31

Entrant: ATS Engineering
Chassis/engine: ATS-BMW 17
Tyres: Pirelli
Driver: Manfred Winkelhock (Germany)
Age: 31; GP's: 35; Wins: 0; Points: 2

Entrant: Equipe Renault Elf
Chassis/engine: Renault RE50
Tyres: Michelin
Driver: Patrick Tambay (France)
Age: 35; GP's: 78; Wins: 2; Points: 88
Car 18: Derek Warwick (Great Britain)
Age: 27; GP's: 30; Wins: 0; Points: 22

Entrant: Barclay Team Arrows
Chassis/engine: Arrows-BMW A7
Tyres: Goodyear
Driver: Marc Surer (Switzerland)
Age: 28; GP's: 58; Wins: 0; Points: 11
Car 18: Thierry Boutsien (Belgium)
Age: 27; GP's: 16; Wins: 0; Points: 0

Entrant: Toleman Group Motorsport
Chassis/engine: Toleman-Hart TG184
Tyres: Michelin
Driver: Ayrton Senna da Silva (Brazil)
Age: 24; GP's: 4; Wins: 0; Points: 4
Car 28: Johnny Cecotto (Venezuela)
Age: 25; GP's: 18; Wins: 0; Points: 1

Entrant: Spirit Racing
Chassis/engine: Spirit-Hart 101B
Tyres: Pirelli
Driver: Huub Rothengatter (Netherlands)
Age: 29; GP's: 2; Wins: 0; Points: 0

Entrant: Scuderia Team Alfa Romeo
Chassis/engine: Alfa Romeo 164T
Tyres: Goodyear
Driver: Riccardo Patrese (Italy)
Age: 30; GP's: 78; Wins: 0; Points: 88
Car 28: Eddie Cheever (United States)
Age: 26; GP's: 62; Wins: 0; Points: 57

Entrant: Osella Squadra Corse
Chassis/engine: Osella-Alfa Romeo FA 1F
Tyres: Pirelli
Driver: Piercarlo Biondani (Italy)
Age: 32; GP's: 15; Wins: 0; Points: 2

Entrant: Ligier Loto
Chassis/engine: Ligier-Renault JS23
Tyres: Michelin
Driver: Michel Alboreto (France)
Age: 27; GP's: 50; Wins: 3; Points: 44
Car 27: Andrea De Cesaris (Italy)
Age: 26; GP's: 55; Wins: 0; Points: 23

Entrant: Ferrari Spa
Chassis/engine: Ferrari 126 C4
Tyres: Goodyear
Driver: Niki Lauda (Austria)
Age: 35; GP's: 85; Wins: 7; Points: 156 1/2

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Age: 30; GP's: 78; Wins: 0; Points: 88
Car 28: Eddie Cheever (United States)
Age: 26; GP's: 62; Wins: 0; Points: 57

Entrant: Osella Squadra Corse
Chassis/engine: Osella-Alfa Romeo FA 1F
Tyres: Pirelli
Driver: Piercarlo Biondani (Italy)
Age: 32; GP's: 15; Wins: 0; Points: 2

Entrant: Ligier Loto
Chassis/engine: Ligier-Renault JS23
Tyres: Michelin
Driver: Michel Alboreto (France)
Age: 27; GP's: 50; Wins: 3; Points: 44
Car 27: Andrea De Cesaris (Italy)
Age: 26; GP's: 55; Wins: 0; Points: 23

Entrant: Ferrari Spa
Chassis/engine: Ferrari 126 C4
Tyres: Goodyear
Driver: Niki Lauda (Austria)
Age: 35; GP's: 85; Wins: 7; Points: 156 1/2

Entrant: Spirit Racing
Chassis/engine: Spirit-Hart 101B
Tyres: Pirelli
Driver: Huub Rothengatter (Netherlands)
Age: 29; GP's: 2; Wins: 0; Points: 0

Entrant: Scuderia Team Alfa Romeo
Chassis/engine: Alfa Romeo 164T
Tyres: Goodyear
Driver: Riccardo Patrese (Italy)
Age: 30; GP's: 78; Wins: 0; Points: 88
Car 28: Eddie Cheever (United States)
Age: 26; GP's: 62; Wins: 0; Points: 57

Entrant: Osella Squadra Corse
Chassis/engine: Osella-Alfa Romeo FA 1F
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Britain's world title prospects are in the hands of a pair of all-rounders

Home test for the family men

Ever since James Hunt climbed out of the cockpit, there has been speculation about who will be the next British driver to take the title which Hunt won in 1976. John Watson - sadly without a drive this year - came close in 1982, when he emerged as joint runner-up with Didier Pironi behind Keke Rosberg. But now there are two front-runners, Nigel Mansell and Derek Warwick, in this unofficial contest.

Given the right backing, which must include not just the right car, but also the right atmosphere and backing from within their respective teams, each is capable of winning a world title on merit, and although the goal now seems to be out of realistic reach this year, a victory for either on Sunday afternoon - which in each case would be an overdue first - would be an important ingredient of the preparation process (psychologically, the first victory is invariably the hardest).

Mansell and Warwick have a lot in common. For a start they use similar Renault engines, which must serve to heighten their personal rivalry, although their personal performance on the day is likely to be influenced more by variations in their cars' level of competitiveness than by their own.

This year, both have found themselves in the lead of a grand prix for the first time. They will not wish to be reminded, I feel sure, that each made a seemingly small driving error whilst in the lead which, because of the abnormal track conditions, caused them to crash out of the race - Mansell at Monaco, Warwick in Dallas.

Notwithstanding his Monaco accident, Mansell has something of a reputation - which he does nothing to discourage - for being an effective "street fighter", at his best when surrounded by large immovable objects (his coolness when in the

lead at Dallas tended to bear this out). Yet his progress on the faster tracks has been spectacular on occasions, which suggests that he has been maturing into a formidable all-rounder - a vital attribute, surely, for a potential champion.

Warwick, on the other hand, has always shown up best on the faster circuits, yet his practice performance in Dallas, where he alone amongst the leading contenders was able to improve his time when conditions were at their worst, was elegant testimony to his prowess on street circuits as well.

Both Mansell and Warwick share the advantage of being physically very fit and possessing above-average stamina, even by grand prix standards. Both have had a hard grand prix apprenticeship - Mansell with Lotus all the while, where he has had to fight hard to discard his earlier underdog status. Warwick with Toleman during that team's difficult entry into and subsequent consolidation on the grand prix scene. During this learning period, both suffered the problems associated with a naturally uncompetitive car, and have emerged technically more knowledgeable and observant as a result.

On the psychological front, each has had ample practice at coping with misfortune, and perhaps Warwick has found this element of Grand Prix racing a little easier to handle than Mansell in the past. However, the provision of a highly competitive car does wonders for a driver's morale, and this year we have seen a considerably matured Mansell.

Outside the cockpit, too, the two drivers have grown more alike. Warwick slipped easily into the public relations role from the start: for Mansell, this part of the job did not come naturally at first, but he worked hard at it and now serves his team well, helped in no small measure by a highly developed sense of humour and turn of phrase which on many occasions has defused a tense situation.

Away from the circuit, both are devoted family men, beyond which their paths tend to diverge. Warwick's absorption in the family trailer manufacturing business is second only to that of motor racing, and he is never far from the office "at the office". For Mansell, on the other hand, paradise starts on the first toe - he is an accomplished low-handicap golfer.

This weekend, no-one will be trying harder to win what is, for them, the most prized of all the grands prix. The driver, however, can only do so much, and the better car on the day is usually decisive. This could give Mansell the edge, because the Lotus has been the pace-setter on both the recent test days, whereas Brands Hatch has always had something of a bogy car for Renault. For Mansell, change rapidly in motor racing, however, as Mansell discovered at Monaco, and Warwick in Dallas.

ADVERTISEMENT



Turkey Invades Cyprus

Ten years on, the occupation continues...

Ten years ago, on July 20, 1974, Turkish forces invaded the Republic of Cyprus, an independent state, member of the U.N., the Council of Europe, the Commonwealth and the Non-Aligned Movement, and seized 37% of its land.

These forces are still there, ten years on, manning at gun point an ugly long scar across the island, an artificial geographical division imposed on a sovereign state, whose territorial integrity was formally guaranteed by Britain in the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee, at the end of colonial rule.

Recent actions by Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot leadership have placed the very independence of Cyprus under serious threat.

The threat came in the form of secession. Last November a "Turkish state" was declared in the Turkish occupied area of Cyprus. Britain and the rest of the world refused to recognise this illegal secessionist move. One country only accorded recognition - Turkey.

During the past ten years of Turkish military occupation in Cyprus, the Government of the Republic has taken its case to the world forum many times. The U.N. has repeatedly denounced Turkish plans to impose partitionist policies, and has adopted - both at General Assembly and Security Council level - unambiguous resolutions which have been ignored by Turkey.

THE ARTS

Television Fibre and fruit

We inhale cancer but do we swallow it? The Food Commission was the subject of BBC1's worthy series *Can You Avoid Cancer?* produced by Anna Jackson, last night. Despite its forbidding overtones, it was a fascinating programme. It appears late but Dr Michael O'Donnell's bedside manner sends one off with minimum perturbation and much better informed.

There was no hard evidence against food, said Professor Richard Doll, of Oxford, but a reasonable estimate would attribute one-third of fatal cancers to it. He thought it might well be much higher.

The difference in international diets and the correlation of diet to cancer rates point to food as a culprit. The Japanese, we were told, used to have little breast cancer though, as their food, before the advent of refrigerators, was loaded with preservatives, they had a lot of stomach cancer.

Since their diet was westernized, the rate incidence of the latter had dropped by 40 per cent. Breast cancer, however, increased. It seemed from this that you couldn't win, but Dr Denis Burkitt, a surgeon in Africa for 20 years, noted that diet there had a high fibre content and little sugar or salt and cancer rates were low, as they were wherever such a diet occurred.

There was an intriguing but happily brief reference here to a pamphlet on ordure by Jonathan Swift which included references reinforcing Dr Burkitt in his enthusiasm for high fibre.

Professor Doll cautioned against the blanket condemnation of food additives: some, he said, reduced cancer risks by improving preservation techniques about alcohol unless you smoked while consuming it, which apparently heightens the risk considerably.

At the end, Dr O'Donnell pointed out that, hard evidence or no, all scientists and doctors working in the field appeared to have altered their diets: fibre and fruit in; salt, sugar, and animal fats down out. That sounded like a clincher.

Dennis Hackett

Cinema

Trekking to the promised land

Laughterhouse (PG)
Gate Bloomsbury,
Classic, Oxford Street.

El Norte (15)
Electric Screen

Bitter Cane
Rio, Dalston

Benvenuta (15)
Camden Plaza

Supergirl (PG)
Warner, Leicester Square

The Cambridge Film Festival, now in its eighth year, is becoming a red-letter feast in the British film calendar. This year it boasts a dozen British premieres, including the Cannes grand prix winner, Wim Wenders' *Paris-Texas*. Next Thursday and Friday Cambridge presents the first showings in this country of Satyajit Ray's adaptation of Tagore's *The Home and the World*. Films receiving their first British showing will compete for a newly inaugurated Audience Award.

The festival opened on Sunday with the world premiere of Richard Eyre's *Laughterhouse*, which can be seen in London this week. This is one

of the most attractive of recent British films - original, idiosyncratic, authentically indigenous in character and setting, recapturing something of the old failing view of English oddity; an amiable mixture of appreciation and deprecation.

Ian Holm plays a Norfolk poultry farmer, innocently embroiled in a minor industrial dispute which decides him to transport to get his Christmas geese to Smithfield. Defying all sensible counsel, he stubbornly sets out to walk his flock to London, as long-dead generations of East Anglian farmers did before him. With reluctant loyalty, his Matt and Jeff labourers join the enterprise; so does his spirited daughter; and even his shrewish wife.

It is, indeed, an East Anglian *Red River*, with geese instead of longhorns; and Richard Eyre does not miss the chances for parody, with a reminiscent line or two, the cowboy hat and John Wayne poses of the young gooseherd (Richard Hope), and touches of Western epic in the music. The charm though is that in the end he perceives something truly heroic in this absurd, misguided enterprise and some saving grace in everyone involved in it - the whipper, inescapable Quixote; even the escorting television reporters who manipulate the affair into a political event.

Brian Glover's script is creditably sparse, and leaves a lot unsaid; though the insights

of difficult but enduring relationships that we gather from the family's pillow talk are touching. Clive Tickner's camera captures the chilly mist and ice of an East Anglian winter; and the sense of the outlandish trek is nicely conveyed by Bill Owen's marvellous old yodel.

Gregory Nava's *El Norte* (which I reported with enthusiasm from Cannes, and which is another of Cambridge's pre-London premieres) is also the saga of an heroic trek, though more self-conscious in its epic ambitions. *El Norte* is the United States, the promised land for a young Guatemalan brother and sister fleeing from their village after their father has been murdered and their mother imprisoned by the military regime. They are urged on at once by the peril behind them and by dreams of the future, created out of pictures in ancient *Good Housekeeping*-style magazines.

The film is composed in three sections: the first in the oppressed homeland; the second in the no-man's-land around Tijuana where "coyotes" lie in wait to rob hapless emigrants with promises to smuggle them across the Mexican border. The final part shows the reality behind the American dream, the illegal immigrants in California, pitifully vulnerable to blackmail, to exploitation as cheap labour or prostitution, to squalor and disease.

It is a sad story of people with small hope of escape: but Gregory Nava (who co-wrote it with his producer Anna Thomas) skillfully relieves it with the element of sentimental melodrama - which, so long as the premises and characters and situations are true in essence, is nothing to be ashamed of.

The dark side of the story is relieved too by the naive but huge charm of David Villalpando and Zaida Silvia Gutierrez. A keen sense of the comedy of the cultural clashes is most memorably manifested in a scene where the young girl and her jolly and more experienced friend do battle with electronic washing machine.

Bitter Cane directed by Jacques Arcelin, is a didactic but fascinating documentary that further enlarges our knowledge of the relations of the United States and the Third World. It was made clandestinely in Haiti, which has been somewhat out of the news since the passing of Papa Doc. The film suggests that little has improved in the intervening years; and that the major economic catastrophe, which condemns a large part of the population to near starvation, is the wholesale exploitation of sweat-labour by invading American industry. American industrialists interviewed in the film congratulate themselves on the country's stable politics and the inexhaustible labour supply at \$2.64 a day. Haitians fleeing



On the road: David Villalpando and Zaida Silvia Gutierrez in *El Norte*

to the States to try to escape starvation, exploitation and oppression, are either retrained or further exploited as illegal black market labour.

In *Benvenuta*, the Flemish director André Delvaux adapts a novel by Suzanne Liér, *La Confession anonyme*, but turns it into an imaginary exploration of a kind only possible in film. A screenwriter (Mathieu Carrière) visits the reclusive author (Françoise Fabian) of a scandalous novel which he is adapting. After her initial reserves are conceived an affection for the young man and reveals more about her supposedly invented character, the musical prodigy Benvenuta. Through their joint

imaginings, as the real and the imaginary become inextricably entangled, the spectator sees Benvenuta's doomed quest for an ideal love, with a married man (Vittorio Gassman) who falls far short of the ideal.

In the way of Delvaux's films, it is an intriguing but rather theoretical exercise; though in this case the exercise is vitalised by the magnificent Fanny Ardant, personifying obsessive romantic passion.

Richard Lester brought to *Supergirl* a degree of wit, charm, expertise and irony which eludes Jeanne Szwarc's *Supergirl*. (*Jaws II* already typed Szwarc as the director of less fortunate spin-offs). Helen

Slater is personable enough as Superman's cousin, but David Odell's less than lustrous script fails to give her any very real character.

The major fun of the film is provided by Faye Dunaway's *Mommie Dearest* performance as Selena the wicked witch who lives in a carnival ghost train. Even this wears thin, though, as the combats of sorcery between Selena and Supergirl are stretched to tedious length, while the script commits the crucial fault of not defining in advance the parameters of each opponents' powers. Fantasy and fairy tale demand their own sort of logic.

David Robinson

Theatre

Fresh as a new-hatched flapper

The Boyfriend
Old Vic

The miracle Sandy Wilson performed in this indestructible show was to devise a pastiche entertainment that was blissfully funny to audiences who had never seen a 1920s musical comedy. With all respect to *Mr Cinders* and *Oh Kay*, the genre is still a closed book, and Mr Wilson's piece still comes up as fresh as a new-hatched flapper 30 years after its first appearance.

Mme Dubonnet's Côte d'Azur finishing school now qualifies as one of those perennial theatrical households

which need to be visited every few years to renew contact with old friends. And from the first sight of a blue cardboard Rolls pulling up on the Promenade des Anglais and disgorging a screaming consignment of blue-blooded British girlhood into Robin Don's plant-infested lobby, it is clear that they are all in excellent shape.

The great virtue of Christopher Hewett's revival (richly deserving its transfer from the Churchill, Bromley) is that it enforces Wilson's affection for the world of the twenties before making fun of it. I doubt whether any work of the period has music or lyrics to match it, and they get their full due from this company. Beyond that, the

production finds endless ways - hard to convey in print - of satirizing the twenties performance style.

The essential trick is to show stage conventions triumphing over common sense. "Where have you been?" asks Jane Wellman's Polly, staring straight out at the audience instead of at the girls who know the answer. Characters are treated as if they were invisible until required to speak. Tony arrives as Pierrot and goes hunting all over the stage for his Pierrette who is stationed downstage as conspicuously as a lighthouse.

Key speeches are thunderously italicized, or broken with enormous momentous pauses.

And where you do find an obvious gag line, like the millionaire lover's confession "I was a fool to pretend the old Percy was dead", it is almost as though Mr Wilson is breaking the rules.

The same trick applies to the music, where exhilaration expands into absurdity, where Hortense (Rosemary Ashe) takes off into horizontal coloratura in the "Riverina", or Polly punctuates Mme Dubonnet's "Poor Little Pierrette" with singing-bird trills that bring the house down.

Mme Dubonnet gives Anna Quayle, the chance to prove herself an heir to Beatrice Lillie. Whether as the school's mistress or Percy's, she moves between magisterial gravity and unpredictable spasms of anarchy; her eyelids dropping like shutters and her voice descending a full octave for romantic disclosures, but equally prone to assault her stuffed-shirt lover with her beach umbrella. Derek Waring, a master of all routines involving cigars and white gloves, comes over as a maypole around whom the girls go into their highly disciplined frenzies.

And there are a wonderful pair of Brockhursts from the wheedlingly dilapidated Peter Baylis, and Paddie O'Neill, summoning her spouse with the voice of a stevedore, and lighting up like the Blackpool illuminations at the news that her son has nabbed a millionaire's daughter.

Irving Wardle

Giselle
Coliseum

Ever since Dance Theatre of Harlem first came to Britain 10 years ago, their director Arthur Mitchell has talked of his wish to mount *Giselle* set in the deep south of the United States, but I suspect that even he did not guess how well it would work out. The premiere, at the Coliseum on Wednesday night, showed that the familiar story fits just as well in the complex Creole society of Louisiana shortly before the Civil War as it does into the vague medieval Silesia where it is generally set.

The prosperous farm of a freed black woman makes, in Carl Mitchell's designs, as pretty a setting as I ever saw for Act I. The graveyard where Giselle is buried for Act II is in swampy land nearby - a suitably eerie spot for the ghosts to appear - with a rather grand mausoleum to mark the family's prosperity at a period when many black people there owned estates.

One could quibble over choreographic details, but Frederic Franklin's staging of the traditional dances is an attractive throwback to the simple, direct version that prevailed until a few years ago. He is

Dance

blessed with a fine, sensitive Giselle in Virginia Johnson and a splendidly romantic Albert in Eddie Shellman. Both will doubtless deepen their interpretations later but at this first attempt were credible, full of feeling, and dancing with a proudly correct style.

Cassandra Phifer is outstandingly good as Giselle's mother, lively and spirited, and Lowell Smith's Hilarion aptly combines a manly determination with a slightly tremulous emotion.

The ghosts in Act II (as in Scottish Ballet's production) wear their old ball dresses instead of conventional ballet frocks. Together with the markedly curved lines, evoking a pre-Petipa style, adopted for all their poses, this helps make them sinister in the way that old prints suggest the ballet always intended but rarely achieved. Johnson, alone, maintains a long straight elegance of limb, marking her out from the others. Myria, queen of the ghosts, falls somewhere between

the two styles but Lorraine Graves, majestically tall, dances with a ferocity to overcome that.

The Harlem dancers take to this revival from the romantic period as happily as they do to Balanchine's modern classics. The grand manner of Tsarist Russia eludes them to a large extent in the *Pas de Dix* from *Raymonda*, also staged by Franklin, which opens this programme.

Actually, I wonder whether Lorraine Graves, who took the leading part, might have looked better if Franklin had set a slower, more stately version of her solo. Donald Williams partnered her handsomely, and Joseph Cipolla showed the other men how their quartet ought to be danced. Otherwise, the performance tended too much to a scampering, over-eager style: pleasant enough, but not really what the occasion demands. Worth persevering with, all the same.

John Percival

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THE TIMES DIARY

Unsafe as HSEs

The headquarters of the Health and Safety Executive - the government body which checks safety standards in workplaces - contains, I can reveal, asbestos, and has been known to contain it for the last seven years. Between 200 and 300 employees work in the building, Beards House in Bayswater, and a survey identified asbestos in its piping as long ago as 1977. Nothing was done about it (even though the HSE now advises employers to "plan to remove" all asbestos, whatever its condition), and more was discovered in another survey conducted this March.

An HSE spokesman protests that the workforce has not been in danger as the asbestos is intact and not giving off dust, but says plans have now been made for its removal. These plans have, however, proved a further source of embarrassment to a body which, from August must licence any contractor who wants to strip asbestos. The work, scheduled for a weekend in June, was postponed because the unions were apparently unhappy about the proposed contractors.

By golly

The expulsion from the Conservative Party of Billericay's controversial right-wing MP Harvey Proctor has been demanded by the Young Conservative branch of the town from the age of 14. Proctor cut his political teeth, Scarborough Castle YCs are outraged by a phrase in an early day motion on gollies in advertising in which Proctor claims that gollies have been enjoyed by generations of "true English children". This, claim the YCs, means white English children, and they have written to Proctor to say so. In a stinging riposte, Proctor says he is "amused and disappointed" at an "absurd" interpretation designed to grab "cheap headlines". Following another tradition which true English children would appreciate, he has now "reported" them to party chairman Selwyn Gummer and to their own MP, Sir Michael Shaw.

BARRY FANTONI



"Don't be silly, Gollies, of course he'll keep it in Britain"

Sharp card trick

The jocular Norman Willis, Len Murray's successor, has been advised by this anonymous TUC adviser to cut out the gossip when he takes office: the hot seat in September. This comes as sad news to his lackies, who enjoyed hearing trivia about things such as the hidden talent of Dr David Owen, who can mark four bingo cards simultaneously. Owen apparently picked up the knack hanging around bingo halls seeking votes for his marginal seat. I presume the good doctor also calls "Hicc".

● Islington's Environmental Health Officers would appear to constitute a considerable health hazard. According to the council's bulletin *Neighbourhood News*, "the EHO has a finger in each of these pies: Housing, water, food control, drainage, rats and mice, health and safety at work".

On a plate

First I see the Duke of Westminster has his own flash numberplate, IGRO. Then, perhaps less surprisingly, I note Robert Maxwell's Rolls-Royce registration: 1923 PP (the date of his birth and his company, Pergamon Press). But this week we see the Queen watching Princess Anne at horse trials photographed next to a vehicle registration: 1 ANN. Surely our monarchy cannot stoop so low? I hereby challenge readers to a spot of personalized plate-watching.

Just fancy

Ludicrous as it sounds, the Ravensbourne Laboury in Kent has just nominated the Beast of Bolsover, Dennis Skinner, as its candidate to lead the Labour party. The constituency's 55-strong management committee also nominated Tony Benn as Skinner's deputy, but Benn has said he will not be standing. Kinnock can sleep easy; the Beast, who is on the miners' picket lines this week after his suspension from the House of Commons - for suggesting that Mrs Thatcher might bribe the judges in the CCHQ case - has failed to gain the necessary 5 per cent support of the Parliamentary Labour party. According to Skinner other constituencies have voted for him, but he refused to name them yesterday. "You'll just make a big joke of it," said the man who was recently described as so burdened with chips that he has become the "pearly king of resentment."

PHS

Scargill's challenge to us all

Readers of the magazine *Marxism Today* in 1981 were left in no doubt of Mr Arthur Scargill's contempt for democracy: "Anybody who believes that we shall achieve socialism simply by electing a number of MPs is deluding themselves. We will win parliamentary power, we will win real political power, we will win working-class power to the extent that we organize people in this country to fight for and sustain the alternative socialist system that we want to see. Parliaments do not necessarily reflect the view of ordinary people."

This contempt for parliamentary democracy and desire to seize power through the militancy of the mob has been the constant theme of Mr Scargill's activities since he became president of the National Union of Mineworkers. In another revealing interview, with the *New Left Review*, Mr Scargill described what he thought was his greatest day when, by the use of the organized mob, the police decided in 1972 that they had to close Salsley coke depot: "Here was the living proof that the working class had only to flex its muscles and it could bring governments and employers, society to a total standstill. I know the fear of Birmingham on the part of the ruling class. The fear was that what happened at Birmingham could happen in every city."

Mr Scargill is well aware that he will never realize his Marxist dream through the ballot box. Instead, for the past four months he has attempted to bring the industrial muscles of the NUM to damage an economic and social system that he detests, and that he would like to overthrow. The British people need to be in no doubt that we are facing a challenge to our whole way of life.

Consider how different the present scene would be for the miners and their families if the NUM was led by a union leader who was not concerned with playing the political game, but instead put their interests first.

The power workers show what could be done. They have been led by able, tough, negotiators with the desire to see that those employed within that industry have good conditions and good pay. The number of power stations in Britain in recent years has been reduced from 245 to 100. But productivity has not gone up. So the leaders of the power workers have demanded improved conditions and pay for their collaboration in, and contribution to, the success of their industry.

The same opportunity is there to be grasped by any sensible leader of the National Union of Mineworkers. The Government has already invested more than £2 million a day in new capital expenditure in the pits and agreed to invest a further £3 billion. This taxpayers' money will allow the development of new coal fields and new collieries with updated machinery to create a coal industry which produces coal at prices which energy users are prepared to pay. The result will be an expansion of the demand for coal, both at home and abroad, and a growing, prosperous industry. That cannot be done, however, if we continue to squander scarce resources in a handful of pits which are grotesquely uneconomic. The

There was a time when even the most fevered novelist would have rejected a plot in which the head of British counter-intelligence moonlighted for the Russians. It would smack too heavily of Stalin's ludicrous show trials of the 1930s in which great communist figures confessed to working for every western intelligence service under the sun.

There came a time in the 1960s, however, when MI5's molehunters began to suspect that their chief, Sir Roger Hollis, was doing exactly that. In 1965 the prey sat down beside one of his pursuers and said, "Peter, you have got the manacles on me... I can only tell you that I am not a spy".

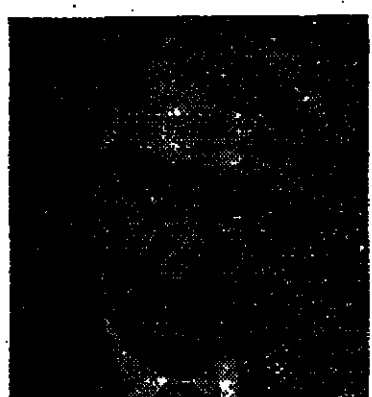
On Monday night, to the horror of today's MI5 chiefs, Mr Peter Wright - the man with the "manacles" - appeared on Granada Television's *World in Action* claiming "intelligence-wise it was 99 per cent certain" that Sir Roger had worked for the other side. It was a desperate move for any retired MI5 officer to make, given the vows of perpetual silence all secret servicemen take, even though Mr Wright flew abroad beyond the reach of the Official Secrets Acts.

He did it, he said, because it was the only way to persuade Parliament and the press to bring pressure on the Government to reopen the case.

What had happened in the years since 1965 to bring about this unprecedented example of whistleblowing by a member of the intelligence community?

When Sir Martin Furnival-Jones, Sir Roger's successor as director-general in Curzon Street - or Box 500, as it is known in Whitehall from the cover address used on its communications - closed down in 1969 the Fluency Working Party into high-level Soviet penetration of MI5, some of the molehunters were determined to fight on. In the early 1970s they achieved a partial success. The evidence was reexamined by the fresh minds of a security service team led by Mr John Day. According to Mr Wright, Mr Day became convinced that Sir Roger was guilty. In 1974 Mr Wright was present at a meeting in London at which Sir Michael Hanley, Sir Martin's successor, informed all counter-intelligence services that Sir Roger had been investigated, interrogated and not cleared. He invited them to make the necessary assessments of damage.

Later that year Lord Trend, the former Cabinet Secretary, was brought out of retirement to sift the evidence in the hope of settling the Hollis question once and for all. In the absence of conclusive evidence he cleared him. The molehunters, or a faction of them, were incredulous. The Hollis business was still a very private affair inside the intelligence family, however. It is probable that successive prime ministers knew only fragments of the story.



Peter Walker, Energy Secretary, defends the Government's policy on coal and urges Labour and the TUC to denounce a dispute whose clear aim is the imposition of a repressive political system

most uneconomic 10 per cent loss something like £1 million per working day. That is a waste of effort and capital which could be used to develop successful pits.

A shrewd, tough union leader would quickly see the benefits of moving from a high to a low cost coal industry and seek to grab some of that benefit for his members. Higher productivity and expanding markets spell higher living standards and greater job security for miners - that is the prize waiting to be negotiated.

But at no stage has Mr Scargill ever been interested in negotiating such progress. But then he is a political activist first and a union leader second. His problem is that he is not very good at either. Look at his remarkable list of failures.

First came the failure to unite the miners. Almost all of the those coalfields that had a ballot, in accordance with the traditions of their union, have been at work - 60,000 men, or nearly one-third of the work force, daily do their jobs despite intense intimidation and organized mob violence. They have continued to produce coal and, as the weeks have gone by, slowly but steadily, more men have joined them, and more pits have started producing coal again.

The two smaller unions connected with the mining industry, unions involved with management and the maintenance of safety, voted not to strike and have continued to maintain the pits.

Then there is Mr Scargill's failure to obtain the practical support of any other union, until the recently contrived dock strike. Every week he has announced that the Transport and General Workers Union had agreed not to move coal; and every week hundreds of thousands of tonnes of coal have been moved by train and lorry. Every week he declared he was going to close down the steel industry. He sent his mobs to Ravenscraig, Scunthorpe and Llanwern to do their worst. And every week all Britain's steel mills have carried on producing.

Mr Scargill's third failure came when his mobs were sent to close power stations. Every power station has remained operating. The mob moved on to the coke workers at Orgreave. For several weeks, with Mr Scargill present on the days of greatest violence, thousands of organized mobsters endeavoured to stop the flow of coke from Orgreave. Every day, every single lorry load of coke departed on schedule from Orgreave and was delivered to its destination.

Then there was Mr Scargill's

failure to tell the truth. Remember how often he told us that stocks of coal at the power stations were going to run out. In February he said there were only eight weeks supply left. In March he said there were still only eight weeks supply left. In April we were down to five weeks, according to him. More recently he has gone back to eight weeks. The fact is that the movement and production of coal has kept power station stocks high throughout the dispute. Over the last month they have fallen by only 1.5 per cent a week. No striking miner should be in any doubt that we have enough to last well into 1985.

Mr Scargill frequently refers to the mining communities. During these last four months, working miners have been beaten and abused, families intimidated, windows broken, children threatened, bodies of ammonia thrown through windows, and never a single word from Mr Scargill condemning any of it. To him, violence in what he describes as a "noble cause" is justified. Let nobody be in any doubt that his "noble cause" is the Scargillist state, to be forced on us because we have the tendency to reject it every time we go to the ballot box.

There are seldom winners in industrial disputes. There are always plenty of losers. My father was a shop steward. He always considered his task was to argue and negotiate and persuade, but to prevent if possible the need for industrial action. As a one-time Tory, I have always believed that national unity and industrial cooperation go hand in hand.

The Cabinet has agreed to continued massive investment in coal to secure the industry's future. It has agreed to provide the miners with early retirement and voluntary redundancy payments. Any miner wishing to continue to work as a miner would be offered a job in another pit, and helped with the cost of moving.

I saw to it that if there was to be a reduction in the labour force from 180,000 to 160,000, nearly all of the loss would be covered by early retirement, men in their late fifties with no desire to take another job, but who would receive a substantial capital sum and weekly payments as high as £104. A new enterprise company, financed by the National Coal Board, has been created to provide advice, accommodation if necessary, and finance to get new enterprises into the local communities.

And, despite the industry's losses, miners' earnings remain 25 per cent above the industrial average.

The conditions were therefore created where there could be no justification for strike action. As a result, Mr Scargill knew that, if he went to a ballot, the miners would reject his call for the fourth successive time. They would recognize that his motives were political, and not designed to improve the position of the miner.

Being described as a moderate in British politics is sometimes associated by those who are critical of such positions as being weak. But in this struggle it is the duty of all who wish to see progress and prosperity to be passionately strong in rejecting the use of violence, intimidation and the imposition of industrial chaos, for the purpose of imposing a political system that only a small minority desire.

It has been argued in the past months, and will be argued until the pithead prevails, that there is very considerable cost, financially and in economic terms, for this dispute to continue. But it is nothing like the economic, political and social cost of allowing all pits, no matter how uneconomic, no matter how high the cost of producing coal from them, to be kept in production for eternity. It is demanded that no Labour government or any government throughout the history of the coal mining industry could, or ever would, adhere to.

But Mr Scargill was out to make a totally unreasonable demand, knowing that it could never be accepted and hoping that, with the help of the mob, he could keep the industrial action going and keep imposing damage.

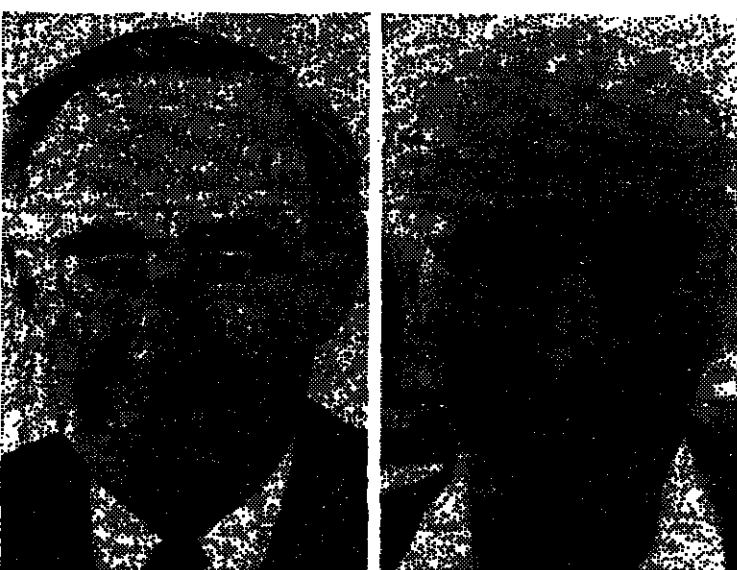
There is no way that Mr Scargill can, or should win this battle. Those many miners who wish to take advantage of the early retirement or voluntary redundancy provisions will be able to do so. Those mines that have no contribution to make to a successful mining industry will close. As the dispute continues, many pits that would be viable will, for geological reasons close. When the dispute ends, many more miners will desire early retirement and voluntary redundancy programme than when it started. They will know there will be fewer industrial firms willing to convert to coal. They will know that many mining communities are more divided and angry than ever before. All that will be Mr Scargill's contribution to the mining community.

It is time for the Labour Party, if it is going to survive as a party believing in parliamentary democracy, to denounce both the political objectives and the violence. It is time for the TUC, having declared that peaceful picketing consists of six men at a factory gate verbally trying to persuade people to support their view-point, to condemn the violence and the mobs that have been mobilized to try to prevent men who have voted to go to work from doing so. It is time that there was a national spirit, cutting across party boundaries, to see that parliamentary democracy prevails. This is not a mining dispute. It is a challenge to British democracy, and hence to the British people.

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Peter Hennessy on the reasons behind the new controversy over MI5

Return of the unrelenting mole hunter



Sir Roger Hollis (left) and Peter Wright, the man with the manacles who will not give up

The molehunters did not give up. But one by one they were retired early or moved away from MI5's counter intelligence sections (although the magazine *Private Eye* is convinced they are still there, peddling far right-wing fantasies). The next stage in their 20-year campaign was to put the Hollis affair into the public domain.

In March 1981, the book *Their Trade Is Treachery* by Mr Chapman Pincher, the veteran Fleet Street specialist on defence and intelligence, which rehearsed their views non-attributively, produced a week of near-hysteria in Parliament only partly stilled by a statement from Mrs Thatcher clearing Sir Roger.

Mr Pincher, naturally, will not disclose his sources. But Whitehall remains convinced Mr Wright was prominent among them. The issue went underground again for three years until Mr Wright put a name and a face to the allegations of Sir Roger's guilt. His evidence was largely that produced in Mr Pincher's book. But in going public he added a new dimension to the saga.

Mr Wright is in his late sixties.

His health is not good. Having spent a career tracking down Stalin's Englishmen he believes MI5 cannot be whole again until all the artefacts of that tainted generation are exhausted and disinfected. His action has smouldered out the camps in MI5 which had fought over Sir Roger's integrity for a decade.

At one end of the spectrum sits the "Hollis is guilty" school, now irrevocably associated with Mr Wright. At the other is a group of retired senior officers who have come to doubt that there ever was any postwar penetration at the top of MI5. Granada Television said this week it had tried and failed to persuade a representative of the "no spy" school to appear on the screen.

In the middle sits a faction who are convinced there was penetration at or near the summit of the security service into the 1960s, but are not prepared to finger Sir Roger. Mr Arthur Martin, MI5's foremost molehunter in the postwar era, is a member of this school and broke silence this week with a letter to *The Times*. The Wright and Martin groups still seem to talk among themselves. The "no spy" people, dominated by the great intelligence

establishment figures of the 1960s and 1970s, are infuriated with both sets of dissidents.

Glowing over the lot of them are the present leadership of MI5. A reprise of their greatest trauma is not the way they would have chosen to celebrate their 75th anniversary. They feel harassed enough already with the inquiry into Michael Bettanay, the young security officer jailed earlier this year for trying to spy for the KGB, in full swing. The last thing they want is the ghost of cases past flittering through their Mayfair corridors.

Perhaps the most human comment this week came from a close observer who defended Hollis with faint damns: "Dear old Roger; to do this successfully would have required intelligence and skill of a very high order. He was just a good, tough, straightforward operator."

Britain has paid a high price for its near non-existent security procedures in the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s. Quite apart from the secrets they have, the lot of people who have either defected, confessed or been convicted indicates an apparently endless procession of young people who turned East for inspiration in the 1930s.

Their unmaking has had a dispiriting effect on the population at large. Mr Robert Cecil, the former diplomat who served as personal assistant to the director of MI5 during the Second World War, said last week that the "contest between Soviet intelligence and British counter-intelligence resembles - at least until the late 1950s - a football match between Manchester United and the Corinthian Casuals in the years of the decline of amateurism".

Will the file on Stalin's Englishmen ever be closed? Almost certainly not. Moscow is even further than Whitehall from passing a Freedom of Information Act. The retired combatants of MI5 refuse to let the issue die. For some it is unthinkable that decades of work were made largely pointless because the competition had got our head man. For others this probability has to be faced. Mr Pincher claims that his latest book, to be published in October, will produce new evidence that cannot be brushed aside in Whitehall and Westminster.

Mr Nigel West, the other spy author with what appears to be ready access to the dissidents, is still active. He is convinced there was high-level penetration after 1945, but does not believe that Hollis is the man.

As long, in fact, as the suspicion remains that there was a spy at or near the summit of MI5 in the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s, the story will not fade. For as one experienced figure put it, "it is inconceivable that one generation of spies did not try to have babies". If all the KGB wanted was to sow doubts, in the hope that the British secret services would turn themselves inside out, they have succeeded brilliantly.

George Walden

Let's play ball in Reagan's yard

President Duarte's visit to Britain tomorrow provides a good time to look at where we in Europe stand on Central America. After coming to power in 1980, the Reagan administration alarmed Europe by threatening to go to the "source" of the trouble in Central America - Cuba. Since then, US policy has become more cautious and sophisticated, especially as the election approached. But we could soon be in the early days of a second Reagan term, and the President could again come under pressure to act more decisively against another "source" - Nicaragua. The repercussions of such action in the Nato-alliance and elsewhere are not hard to foresee.

The issue will be decided by the situation on the ground and by the dynamics of American international politics. But we in Europe have an interest too, and our present critical detachment, however comfortable morally, is politically shortsighted. Not only do we owe it to our major ally to take a more sympathetic view of its problems in Central America, but by doing so we can help to ensure that the present more modulated, and less ideological, American approach succeeds.

Under pressure of events, the initial, dangerously one-dimensional approach has been replaced by a three-track policy, in which military assistance and pressures on Nicaragua are balanced by massive civil aid and willingness to negotiate. The underlying priority is economic assistance and the encouragement of democratic evolution: the ultimate "source" is not Cuba, Nicaragua or Moscow, but intolerable social conditions.

El Salvador was run for many years by 14 large landowners and industrialists, though this is hardly the fault of President Reagan, who - like Nixon in Vietnam - has reaped a whirlwind sown over time by other hands. Now, as he frequently reminds us, three out of four US aid dollars go to help establish a democratic economy and society: which means about \$200m a year for a population of about five million.

Given this legacy, and the war, the effects are slow in coming. But in Europe, insufficient recognition has been given to the success of President Duarte in the recent election. Even the British Labour Party, which argued against sending observers, should at least have the grace to welcome the result. The logic of the European left seems to be that the people of El Salvador should be punished for past American policy failures by being abandoned to a communist regime installed by force, and externally sustained.

Even this painful progress towards democracy would not have occurred without resistance, to the insurgents. "You can't have social reforms in a country where you are getting your head shot off by guerrillas", in President Reagan's words. US military aid remains essential, and talk of a new Vietnam sounds a little over-excited when the debate is about whether there are 55 or maybe a few dozen more American military personnel in San Salvador.

True, the military component of US policy includes nearly 1,000 men in Honduras. Their functions there - to stop supplies to the guerrillas, to remind Nicaragua of American power, and to support anti-govern-

ment rebels there - are justifiable, seen in the context of American strategy as a whole. The Sandinistas, the Cubans and the Russians must not expect to enjoy a monopoly of covert action: "symmetry" - the euphemism for hitting back at the Sandinistas - is militarily and morally messy, but defensible as one of the pressures for peace.

The third strand in the strategy is negotiation. Without it, the other two will get nowhere. Dialogue is now evolving on many levels. The recent visit to Nicaragua by George Shultz, Secretary of State, has been followed by contacts between the two sides in Mexico. In El Salvador itself, President Duarte is edging towards negotiations with the political wing of the guerrillas, though to accomplish that without alienating the military - while simultaneously combating the right-wing death squads - is a diplomatic task in itself.

All three elements interlink: there can be no democracy without reform, no real reform without a measure of peace, and no peace without military containment of the Sandinistas and guerrillas, balanced by a readiness to talk. European governments cannot, do not and should not feel obliged to endorse every aspect of American policy, and Britain was right to oppose the mining of Nicaraguan ports.

But unless we at least give our ally a fair hearing, and try to see what the Americans are doing in perspective, disagreeable consequences could follow. If the US administration gets the impression that Europe is deaf to its concerns in Central America, the political will needed to keep Senator Sam Nunn at bay and 300,000 US troops secondarily, could slowly be sapped. Secondly, the less support Washington gets for more sensible policies, the more tempted it might be during the first year of the new presidency to resort to more adventurous expedients, which could rebound against Europe by intensifying East-West strains while simultaneously weakening Nato.

Some would like nothing better than to march under a "US out of Nicaragua" banner. They are mostly the same people for whom the more strains on Nato the better, and they tend to make glib equations between El Salvador and Afghanistan. There are some broad parallels: each country needs social reform, and their instability meanwhile worries each of the superpowers. But the analogy ends there. The absorption by a war of aggression of an independent country into a communist, totalitarian system cannot seriously be compared with attempts to implant democracy in El Salvador in the face of a guerrilla war.

No one is asking for European involvement, or for blanket support in a situation the Americans themselves do not control, let alone the Europeans. But Washington surely deserves at least as much credit when it tries to do the right thing as criticism when it is wrong. American policy is now edging on to the right track. Europe does not seem to have any plausible alternative to offer. We should remember that an American defeat or a rush for "victory" would be worse for Central America, for our allies, and for us.

The author is Conservative MP for Buckingham.

Philip Howard

Chalk - mightier than the pen

I have decided what I want to be when I grow up. I agree that it has taken an unconscionable long time. But what I want to do is teach in a girls' school. You meet a better class of people there than eccentric journeymen who can talk about nothing else than how their latest piece was hacked to death by the subs, and newspaper executives breathing fire and Philistia out of all three nostrils. And you know that you are doing something worthwhile in the long eye of history, which is more than can be said for hacks, MPs, stockbrokers, accountants, and bingo-callers.

I agree that good teachers are paid far too little. But they have the satisfaction of working with young people, many of whom are bright, and all of whom look good, at any rate in a girls' school. And the software they work with, whether Tacitus or Jane Eyre or Venn diagrams, is better stuff than the ephemeral sensations of journalism. Actually, I am not quite sure about the Venn diagrams; but I put them in to show a broad mind that is willing to try a hop across the two cultures.

Curious followers of the Howard career will deduce that I have now presented the prize to the girls of Walthamstow Hall, Stroud, in lieu of watching the boring finals at Wimbledon, and that all went well, at least as far as I could judge. I neither fainted, nor fell off the platform, nor told the story about the stockbroker and the chorus-girl.

With remarkable self-restraint, I also refrained from telling the story about Romano's, the *locus classicus* for chappies faced with such an ordeal at a girls' school. I could not tell it as well as Bertie Wooster for those girls who had already read it. And why spoil by anticipation one of the great pleasures of life for those who had not? You will remember that what finally turns the Wooster knees to jelly when called upon to address the girls is the school song of "Many greetings to you, many greetings to you, many greetings, dear stranger, at length and with considerable lat-

tude of choice in the matter of key. Wally Hall, as we old hands familiarly call the place, was originally founded for the daughters of missionaries, and in its school prayer has a lethal secret weapon to discredit visiting speakers.

But as Bertie said, when asked how his speech had gone: "Most extraordinarily successful. Went like a breeze. But - er - I think I may as well be going. No use outstaying one's welcome, what?" The only possible misjudgment occurred after the ordeal was over, and the headmistress swayed towards me in relief. I swayed towards her in relief also, and kissed her on the cheek. From the reaction of the girls I take it that this was not part of the usual programme for Open Day.

Apart from this minor unscheduled innovation it was a charming and impressive occasion. The girls were so much more self-confident and interesting than we were at that age. The headmistress, handsome but strong-minded like Bertie's Miss Tomlinson, as headmistresses have to be, *ex officio*, was also witty and an all-round good egg. She managed to deliver her headmistress's report, containing matter about dry rot in the dining hall that Joyce Grenfell would have had a good time with, with such vim and style that it was fun. School browsing and shuicing knock the notorious gluttony and wine-bibbery of hacks into a straw buster, though, I dare say, that after Open Day it is back to hard tack and Wallyburgers, girls. The computer studies department was full of incredibly advanced technology, but confirmed my view that as an academic course computers are just vocational training, a new kind of typing.

And Audrey Christine Third, head of English, retired after 30 years teaching at Wally Hall: a wise and broad-minded woman, the resident Mistress Chips. She has trained generations of girls who are passing English literature and culture to the next generation. It is far, far better work than we do. My application is in the post.



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THERE IS A WAR ON

Until the dock strike ministers thought that the Government was handling the coal strike rather well. That took too narrow a view of the dispute for our liking, but there were facts to support it. For 19 weeks, for instance, no single union had been able or willing to give effective support for Mr Scargill. Some 65,000 workers at the NCB had continued to work, with a gradual but increasing return from strike. Coal was produced, which meant that the country's ability to withstand a total shutdown at the pits was consequently extended until next January at least. Moreover every succeeding forecast by Mr Scargill about the imminence of a victory or the likelihood of a wider industrial war with the assistance of more trade unions was discredited by events. Taking a narrow view, therefore, ministers felt they had contained the effect of Scargillism very successfully. What changed everything with the dock strike? First this view failed to take account of the increasing distress felt by the public at the daily spectacle of massive criminal violence and intimidation going unpunished and, in spite of the efforts of the police, often unchecked. Secondly the insistence of ministers that this was purely an industrial dispute, in defiance of its criminal and insurrectionary flavour, suggested either a dangerous insouciance unworthy of a government committed to law and order, or a tacit admission that since the Government had not the power to meet the threat, it would pretend that there was no threat in the first place.

Thirdly, and maybe as a consequence of the suspicions raised by this insouciance, the dock strike which was clearly engineered to coincide with the pit strike lent substance to the thought that Mrs Thatcher might suddenly, after all, be defeatable. That was not just evident in some trade union quarters. It showed up in the behaviour of the financial markets. It doubtless crystallized a more general unease in the public mind. It rippled through Parliament. It may even have rationalized in the minds of some Cabinet ministers a palpable dissociation from their leader which has not gone unnoticed in recent months.

The point has thus now been reached when the political consequences of a prolonged pit strike are too serious to permit ministers to describe the strike merely as an industrial dispute between the employees and the management of a nationalized industry. There are much wider

EXPLODING A MYTH

Forty years on, the nations of a divided Europe are remembering the things they want to remember about the last war in Europe. We have celebrated the great liberating enterprise of D-Day. The Russians are ordering empire-wide remembrance of their Great Patriotic War. The Poles will mark the tragic heroism of the Warsaw Uprising. And today the Germans are commemorating the Stauffenberg bomb plot against Hitler.

Inevitably, all these national anniversaries carry traces of myth as well as history. In West Germany, the Twentieth of July has long been seen as the moral foundation-stone of the Federal Republic. The German resistance to Hitler was the historical basis for recovered German self-respect after the shock of defeat and the revelations of Nazi barbarism. Against the Allied thesis of "collective guilt", West German leaders argued the continuity of this "other Germany" from Weimar to Bonn.

In recent years, with growing economic and political strength, German national pride has been more openly expressed - in the East as well as the West. With Chancellor Kohl, measured self-respect has sometimes swollen into self-righteous pathos. His off-the-cuff summary of recent German history at Oxford this May - "a people like mine, which has suffered two lost wars, two inflations, partition and the deportations from the East" - did not command universal sympathy. His behaviour in Israel was, to say the least, tactless. There was no reason at all for him to feel offended at not being invited to the D-Day festivities. But today he has an anniversary of which all Germans can be justly proud.

The theme which West German leaders always stress on this occasion is the plurality, not to say the ubiquity, of German resistance to Nazi tyranny. Hitler's opponents, they say, were civilians as well as soldiers, workers as well as aristocrats, Catholics and Protestants, conservatives, liberals, socialists and even communists. All united against the common enemy, all, as it were, model citizens of West Germany.

implications to it, even without the dock strike, though it seems that it took the dock strike to open ministerial minds to this fact.

Of course those wider implications are not the responsibility of Mr MacGregor and the National Coal Board. It must still be in their interest to settle in a way which preserves the management's right to be the ultimate arbiter of which pit can be kept open and which should be closed. That right is fundamentally challenged by Mr Scargill. That is why we should not be deluded into thinking that a settlement was so close that only one word - "beneficially" - divided the parties. It is not an innocent word. It symbolises the division between two philosophies - one which seeks to run pits, regardless of cost, as a kind of occupational therapy for miners; the other which wants to apply the usual commercial criteria to pits, as all other industrial enterprises do, particularly in the harshly competitive field of energy.

The NCB will therefore want the details of its aborted offer to lay on the table. There is some hope that more miners will drift back to work after a few weeks of the holiday season. In the meantime some thought will be given to closing down any pit which can closely match the list of requested redundancies, and even of asking the Government to change the regulations to allow striking miners to return to work only for so long as they need to collect their redundancy payments and be off.

That policy is obviously the only one for the Coal Board, since its purpose is to produce coal and it needs a labour force to do so - which is not permanently being radicalized onto the barricades by Mr Scargill. It is a measure of its difficulty that most private estimates suggest that in addition to Mr Scargill's few thousand shock troops, there might be at least 50,000 more members of the NUM whose militancy will be difficult to overcome while on strike, and even more difficult to accommodate within working relationships at the pithead after the strike has ended.

For ministers, however, it is different now. There is a war on. There always has been such a war for the hearts and minds of the British people, at least since 1969 when Mr Harold Wilson lost out to trade union power. Mrs Thatcher was elected in 1979 to reassert the power of Parliament and the law over the increasing challenges to them from trade unions. A combination of political neglect and

gradualist legislation postponed any decisive confrontation in the first parliament. But it was always going to come and not necessarily in the guise of a general strike since the structure of the modern trade union movement makes that much less likely.

Mr Scargill is the exemplar not just of coercive trade union power, but of a kind of underclass civil war against society. Indeed, in his case, it is not undeciphered since he has repeatedly made clear his intentions. He has declared war on British society and society, being British and fair, and lazy and prone to ridicule extremists rather than to take them seriously, has postponed its response. Not surprisingly ministers have also wanted to postpone the moment of retaliation for that reason. But they cannot now expect to cope adequately and firmly with the challenge posed by Mr Scargill unless they tell the British people the score.

We have been on the defensive for nineteen weeks. Those have been tenable tactics, provided everybody has been in the picture; and that is where hitherto ministers have failed. Mrs Thatcher and her ministers must now combine words with deeds. Words must convey the importance that ministers attach to this crisis, their determination to overcome it and its profound significance for society. Without such words the deeds which must follow in meeting the physical challenge of violence, intimidation and disruption will not command the public support which may be necessary.

Mr Scargill will survive any settlement and will hope to preserve his shock troops, duly radicalized, to fight another day. So this strike must only end in circumstances where such a recurrence is recognized to be wholly unrealistic. It is time for the Prime Minister to come to the front of the stage and tell the people - not just her backbenchers, not just Parliament - what the issues are and how she and her government intend to deal with them. She is at her best leading from the front and the country is now faced with a frontal assault even though it comes from within. In the long history of Britain there have been many such epic struggles to secure and maintain society's freedom under the law against all kinds of threats to that freedom. At such a time leadership needs to speak to the people and inspire each citizen to see that the cause of freedom, within and without, is a heroic one which ultimately affects us all.

Germany today - not a popular notion, but a quietly influential one - that somehow Germany's national and democratic development was frustrated by Allied occupation; that left to themselves, the survivors of the resistance in 1945 would have found their own way forward to an authentic democracy in a united Germany. The notion is only half-articulated. It is also half-baked.

On this occasion we should hardly need to recall three simple historical facts. The Germans did not liberate themselves from Nazism; they were liberated by the Allied armies. Parliamentary democracy was initially imposed and imposed by the Western allies in their zones of occupation, although the seeds often fell on ground well-fertilized by the German resistance and opposition to Hitler. The division of Germany was the result mainly of the communists' subversion of democracy, under Stalin's orders, in the Soviet occupied zone. It is, however, necessary to recall these basic facts given the strong undercurrent of anti-Americanism (and not just of reasoned opposition to the Reagan administration) in the Federal Republic today. They are essential for a just evaluation of this year's anniversaries in both halves of our divided continent.

It would be sad if the Twentieth of July commemoration were to be viewed in Bonn as in any way an "answer" to the D-Day festivities. In truth, the two anniversaries are mutual and complementary. We have every reason to salute the great courage of Stauffenberg and his fellow-conspirators; the people of West Germany have every reason to celebrate the breakthrough of the Allied armies. It is the legacies of both victories, one moral and symbolic, the other military and political, which have combined to make the Federal Republic a stable, prosperous and liberal democracy. If anyone is inclined to think that is too little, let them just consider what the Poles or the people of East Germany have to celebrate, forty years on.

Causing a crash to some purpose

From Colonel S. M. W. Hickey
Sir, Entertained as I was by the sight of a British Rail diesel engine and three coaches crashing into the CEBG's fuel tank (report, July 18), I am prompted to ask if full value was obtained from this costly demonstration.

Were instrumented dummies carried in the driver's cab and in the passenger coaches? Were measurements taken of the decelerative forces imposed on the coaches (two of which appeared to stand up well to the crash)?

An enormous amount of data relevant to all forms of travel safety, fire suppression and the design of the great nuclear fuel fleet, but which would seem to have been drawn from what seems to have been little more than a PR jamboree. If such an opportunity has been wasted, the wretched taxpayer, who ultimately foots the bill for the follies of our nationalized industries, is surely owed an explanation.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HICKEY,
Fipernum,
Kings Worthy,
Winchester,
Hampshire,
July 18.

From Mr Mark B. Warburton
Sir, All the publicity given to the recent spectacular staged train crash concerned the safety of otherwise of the great nuclear fuel fleet, but which would seem to have been drawn from what seems to have been little more than a PR jamboree.

The old-fashioned screw coupling between the locomotive and the first coach caused a certain degree of telescoping with this vehicle, but the buck-eye couplings between the other coaches held firm and the all-steel coaches remained more or less in line, with most windows still intact.

Yours faithfully,
MARK B. WARBURTON,
10 Brynne Court,
Longwell Green,
Bristol,
Avon,
July 18.

Natural justice

From Professor C. M. Fletcher
Sir, In your Law Report today (July 17) on Mr Justice Gidwell's judgment on the withdrawal of "the union right" at CEBG he said that it was against "the rules of natural justice".

Where can the text of these rules be found and why is it available to judges but not to her Majesty's Government? Should not all members of Parliament receive a copy?

Yours faithfully,
C. M. FLETCHER,
24 West Square, SE11,
July 17.

From Mr Ewart Milne
Sir, What is "natural justice"? It obviously applies to the babe in the womb, to the pregnant woman; and so on, but it does not seem to me that it can apply to bodies of persons in a trade union. I could be wrong, of course, but I would like it to be defined.

But whatever happened to *Sahus populi suprema lex*? And does not the safety of the people apply to the going on or off of the Cheltenham establishment? The Government, in my view, was right to take the steps that it did and no amount of so-called "natural justice" will away with it.

I am, Sir, yours etc,
EWART MILNE,
46 De Parys Avenue,
Bedford,
Bedfordshire,
July 17.

The dockers' dispute

From Mr A. E. Watson
Sir, Cannot Mr Newton Dunn (July 18) understand that a single tunnel is much easier to block, or in fact destroy, than numerous ships sailing between a number of ports?

Yours faithfully,
A. E. WATSON,
12 Bourne Road,
Colchester,
Essex,
Lincolnshire.

From Lord Ingrow
Sir, A Channel tunnel, yes, but including a road, there is no point in leaving the flying pan for the fire.

Yours faithfully,
INGROW,
House of Lords,
July 18.

Gallery acquisitions

From Dr Selby Whittingham
Sir, Geraldine Norman today (July 12) rightly pays tribute to the marvellous transformation of Manchester City Art Gallery under Mr Tim Clifford.

However it is unfair to imply that his predecessor, Mr Lorraine Conran, did nothing when in fact he acquired the Stubbs in front of which the present director is photographed and built up the purchase fund from virtually nothing to one of the highest in the province. There were also some outstanding temporary exhibitions arranged by Dr Fritz Grossmann.

It seems incredible that all this Mancunian initiative should be rewarded by such a niggardly Government response over the Ducoco appeal, whereas £5m was available to the British Museum for some drawings, belonging incidentally to the Chancellor of Manchester University, which over the years would be seen by fewer people than would the Ducoco on permanent display in Manchester.

Yours faithfully,
SELBY WHITTINGHAM,
153 Cromwell Road, SW5,
July 12.

Justifying use of emergency powers

From Dr C. J. Whelan
Sir, Your leader, "State of emergency" (July 16) raises issues of fundamental importance in any democracy. Sadly, it clouds the issues and lacks balance.

You rightly observe that the Emergency Powers Act, 1920, enables the Government to secure the essentials of life of the community. You insist that such powers should not be used by the Government as a tactical threat or weapon in a dispute.

But why not if, as you believe, the legislation exists to protect the body politic and defend the state's legitimate authority in the face of disputes which threaten to endanger political stability?

The answer is that threats to essential life are not necessarily threats to the state. Whether or not Arthur Scargill's use of the miners' "emergency" strike in 1972 to "fight the Government" was a threat to the state, it did not stop Lord Wilberforce recommending, and the Heath Government accepting, the miners to be a "special case" and awarding them a pay increase in excess of Government limits.

Whether or not the seamen in 1966 were led by a "tightly-knit group of politically motivated men", their fight, like the firemen's in 1977-78 and the miners' in 1972, was against Government incomes policies.

The question, "Who rules?", was raised in the 11-day general strike in 1926; the state of emergency, however, lasted throughout the 76-month fight of miners to prevent wage cuts. Challenges to Government policies should not be confused with attacks on the state.

You are right that emergency powers should be used only to preserve the essentials of life and not as a tactical threat or weapon. In a democracy, however, we need guarantees that governments whose policies are being challenged legitimately do not, under the guise of protecting the public, use emergency powers to strikeback.

Your leader did not raise this issue, despite the increasing willingness of governments in recent years to use the military (and, indeed, the police) as an alternative labour supply and the existence of elaborate contingency planning to which Peter Hennessy elsewhere refers (report, page 2).

At the height of any major strike the rational world, to which you aspire, is easily hidden behind emotional rhetoric. Your leader displays more of the latter than the former.

Yours faithfully,
C. J. WHELAN,
Centre of Socio-Legal Studies,
Wolfson College, Oxford,
July 17.

From Mr A. J. Black
Sir, Your leader, "State of emergency", fails to take account of the possibility that the developing confrontation between the Government and many miners and dockers is a clash not just between democracy and its enemies, but between different perceptions of democracy, and also between

Penetrating security

From Professor H. S. Ferns
Sir, Mr Peter Wright's advocacy of a public investigation of the penetration of the British security services by the agents of the Soviet Government and of the Communist Party deserves the full support of all those concerned by the attempts to destabilize the British community so evident at the present time.

Having been myself on one of Moscow's lists of prospective recruits to the service of Soviet intelligence, I once discussed the activities of Soviet agents in Cambridge with the late Professor Roy Pascal.

He told me that he was approached by Soviet agents to suggest the names of Cambridge students who might be recruited to the Soviet service. He refused.

Others obviously responded positively, and we know the results of their recommendations. But do we know all the results?

The late Igor Gouzenko, who gave us the first lead in this matter, always maintained that full use was never made of the information he possessed. Apart from Sir William Stevenson, who advised the Canadian Prime Minister, Rt Hon W. L. Mackenzie King, to take Gouzenko

seriously, British Intelligence officers seemed oddly uninterested in Gouzenko.

It seems strange that Gouzenko was always kept under wraps by the Canadian authorities and was privately depicted by the RCMP as shifty mad.

It is likewise very strange that according to Leo Heaps in his book, *Hugh Hambleton, Spy: Thirty years with the KGB*, an effort was made by the British authorities to steer Hambleton away from Britain in order, it would seem, to avoid the arrest and trial of a man whom for some mysterious reason the Canadians would not prosecute.

That Hambleton was sentenced to 10 years on a charge the truth of which he admitted is not remarkable. But it is remarkable that somebody in the British Government tried to do what the Canadians succeeded in doing: viz, to leave a prime Soviet spy alone and untouched. There seems to be more than one woodchuck in the woodpile.

Yours etc,
H. S. FERNS,
1 Kesteven Close,
Sir Harry's Road,
Birmingham,
West Midlands,
July 16.

This further initiative is in response to what appear to be the public's expectations. We do not believe it to be justified in terms of strict application of cost-effective appraisal techniques to risk assessment.

Yours faithfully,
H. E. BOLTER,
Director and Secretary,
British Nuclear Fuels plc,
Risley,
Warrington, Cheshire,
July 16.

Echo of wartime in the Aegean

From Sir Denis Wright
Sir, I can add a gloss to Mr Haag's unhappy story (July 17) of present-day feelings among the islanders of Kastellorizo (Megisti), the most easterly of the Dodecanese.

I was H M Consul at Mersin on the south Turkish coast from 1943-45, when I was lucky enough to enjoy close relations with both the Vaili or Governor (the late Mr. Tevik Gur) and his chief of police. Both were exceptionally helpful to the Allied cause on a number of occasions despite Turkish neutrality during the War. One such occasion was in late February, 1944, when the chief of police personally phoned to tell me that he had just received information that a number of British soldiers in uniform had come ashore at Ovacik, some 80 miles west of Mersin, and that they would be arrested and interned unless I acted quickly.

There was no road or telephonic communication with Ovacik in those days. I had no motor transport of my own but was able to borrow a Jeep and a 15 cwt truck from a company of Royal Engineers camped outside Mersin (who, to preserve the niceties, were known to the Turks as Messrs. Braithwaite and Co, civil engineers, of Haymarket, London).

Accompanied by a R E captain I set out for the unknown. After a very rough passage we got through to Ovacik with both Jeep and truck to find six very bedraggled young British soldiers in the local coffee house surrounded by curious and friendly villagers.

The six soldiers were from the Royal Army Service Corps, based on Cyprus. Their mission was to take provisions to the British garrison on Kastellorizo, sailing under cover of darkness, and hugging the Turkish coast. Unfortunately they had struck a submerged object; their boat had sunk, but with the help of a raft they had managed to swim ashore.

This incident underlines the fact that we did not evacuate Kastellorizo under pressure of German counter-attack as we did the rest of the Dodecanese. I do not know whether or not we hung grimly on to the island until the end of the war. Nor do I know whether the Germans harassed our garrison there by bombing or other means - if they did it would, perhaps, account for the islanders' feeling that they would have fared better without British occupation.

Yours truly,
DENIS WRIGHT,
Duck Bottom,
Folkestone,
Hastings,
Aylesbury,
Buckinghamshire,
July 18.

From Mr Peter Rossdale
Sir, Strikes with a political motive are difficult, if not impossible, to settle on terms that appear reasonable to those against whom they are directed. Thus, at the present time we are all being subjected to varying degrees of hardship, from redundancy to bankruptcy.

The situation is rapidly polarizing into a division represented by the Conservative and Alliance parties versus the Labour and Communist parties. Leaders of the latter two parties are actively advocating and arranging withdrawal of labour, a ploy which, it seems, cannot be countered by ordinary democratic means.

In these circumstances, supporters of the other two parties can only show their displeasure by withdrawing, wherever possible, from the use of services provided and commodities produced by those industries affected.

Fortunately, there are alternative methods of travel to those of Sealand and British Rail; and perhaps the consumer could demand Nottingham coal only.

Yours faithfully,
PETER D. ROSSDALE,
Beaufort Cottage Laboratories,
High Street,
Newmarket, Suffolk.

From Mr Richard Govett and Mr Jorgen Saunte
Sir, Last Friday night, three of us came across an old man in Pimlico looking lost and sick - in fact at death's door. We took him to a Salvation Army hostel which refused to take him in. We then took him to an adjacent Church Army hostel. Here the caretaker, a Jew, told us to phone 999 for help.

The ambulance men came, but said they could not take in vagrants. A policeman arrived; he was sympathetic, but said that he could not look after him as he was "not drunk and disorderly".

We offered to pay the Church Army the £7 for his lodging, but this was refused. Eventually we took the old man to a park to spend the night as comfortably as possible.

Could any of your readers tell us, first, the purpose of these organizations which would not display sufficient charity to offer a cup of water to a helpless old man pushing 80; and secondly, what we should do the next time we find someone in such a plight?

Have we sunk to the level of impoverished nations if we can leave a helpless old man to die in the gutter?

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD GOVETT,
JORGEN SAUNTE,
50a Lewisham High Street, SE13,
July 8.

From Mr Geoffrey Handley-Taylor
Sir, Your correspondent, Mr Harry E. L. Woolf (July 14) would seem to be confused upon more than one count.

Robert Bridges was Poet Laureate from 1913 until his death in 1930, some years before the coronation of King George VI. The story originally published under the heading, "Royal canary won't sing", first appeared in a New York daily newspaper when John Massfield declined to give an interview upon his arrival in the United States, shortly after his appointment as Poet Laureate in 1930.

As Massfield's bibliographer I can vouch for this story.

I am, Sir, yours very truly,
GEOFFREY HANDLEY-TAYLOR,
c/o National Liberal Club,
1 Whitehall Place, SW1,
July 16.

From Mr Colin J. Blau
Sir, I was both interested and saddened by the appeal for stricter control of drinking at one-day cricket matches made by David Greaves, the Gloucestershire cricket captain, and reported in *The Times* on July 10 as offering a solution to the problem of racial abuse directed at black players.

The banning of alcohol at cricket matches would, if at all possible, merely mean that a section of the crowd was composed of sober racists rather than drunken ones. This might of course be preferable but would do nothing to combat the root cause of the problem, which is endemic on our society.

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Monitoring programmes carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the results of which are published annually, do not support this.

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As far as the future is concerned, British Nuclear Fuels plc has already committed an investment of £500m to new and refurbished waste management plant at Sellafield, of which some £190m is directly associated with the reduction of radioactive discharges to the Irish Sea.

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Drink at matches

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In addition a top priority study has been launched to investigate how discharges to the Irish Sea can be cut to as near zero as possible.

From Mr H. E. Bolter
Sir, The letter from members of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (July 18) gave the misleading impression that the Republic of Ireland is threatened by discharges from Sellafield into the Irish Sea.

Monitoring programmes carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the results of which are published annually, do not support this.

In addition, monitoring carried out by the Irish health authorities and scientists at Trinity College and University College in Dublin have shown

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Investing in numbers troubles Telecom

British Telecom's impending privatization offers the Government the opportunity not only to swell its coffers by around £3 billion but also to encourage wider share ownership. Subscribers will be encouraged to take a stake in BT through a variety of special inducements.

If they do invest in numbers they will pose some cumbersome administrative problems. A mere five per cent of BT's customers responding to the marketers' "special offers" would mean almost one million shareholders. The prospect of maintaining a share register of that size is not one the management relishes.

BT has already acknowledged the problems it has in maintaining its billing and accounting records: a mammoth share register would only add hugely to its administrative burden. The cost alone of maintaining such a register would not be insignificant. AT & T in the US, which has in the order of 2.5 million shareholders, estimates that it costs around \$10 a head to service them.

As foretold here last week, BT duly unveiled its accounts yesterday with an audit report without blemish. It also became clear why BT is none too keen on producing current cost accounts. CCA retained profit was only £572m against the £990m reported on the historical cost basis.

There are still some fundamental doubts about which is the most appropriate accounting convention for BT. Sir George Jefferson, BT's chairman, is adamant that historical cost is right since this is what the market is used to. But by his own admission, the environment in which BT operates is the subject of rapid change in both technology and price.

If this is the case, then logic dictates that the least appropriate basis for BT is historical cost.

Presenting financial information on the basis of costs which become immediately outdated moves much of the value from accounts.

It is something the City will consider more closely when the BT prospectus is published. Something else to watch out for will be details of the new actuarial valuation of the unfunded deficiency relating to the old Post Office superannuation scheme.

At March 31 1979, this was £462m, which BT will reveal a much higher deficiency and thus add to the drain on cash flow of £67m in 1983/84.

No action on Budget rumours

The effect of pre-Budget rumours on tax relief shows up in the latest figures for institutional investment. It was not quite what might have been supposed.

Budget secrecy is elevated to a moral issue on the grounds that rumours cost money: investors scramble to take advantage of tax reliefs before they are withdrawn. Nothing of the kind seems to have happened in pre-Budget months. The net inflow into what the statisticians descriptively call "other financial institutions" mainly building societies, life assurances and pensions funds, actually fell from £9.7 billion in the last quarter of 1983 to £8.2 billion in the first quarter of 1984. Excluding their borrowings from the banks which shot up from £305m to a spectacular £1,592m, net inflow dropped by nearly £3 billion.

Some decline in the last three months of the financial year is usual, as accrued tax balances drop when building societies pay their composite rate tax. Normally life assurance and pension funds receive a larger inflow as the tax year draws to a close. In January-March 1983, for example, net inflow increased by more than £800m. This year it remained unchanged, at just under £4 billion. Were savers paralysed by doubt? Or did they fear that wicked Mr Lawson might make the changes retrospective?

The use of funds by these institutions is also revealing. Mortgage lending rose modestly, to a new record. Investment in gilts was run down, particularly by building societies presumably reflecting the change in their tax treatment. Pensions funds and unit trusts invested more in British equities, while investment in overseas ordinary shares fell by almost the same amount.

Over the year, the change has been dramatic. In the first quarter of 1983, these institutions invested more than £1 billion in overseas company securities; in the same quarter of 1984, that outflow had fallen to only £300m.

Defensive hand from Waddington

Directors of John Waddington are confident that Mr Robert Maxwell's attempt to thwart the £5.2m rights issue at today's meeting will fail. They believe they have enough proxies to see off the new owner of Mirror Group Newspapers.

Winning the rights issue will not necessarily win the war. Mr Maxwell also chairman of BPCC, which holds 25.79 per cent of Waddington's shares, has said that he will call an extraordinary meeting of shareholders to try to have two BPCC representatives elected as non-executive directors. Waddington is implacably opposed. Mr David Perry, managing director, points out that the two companies compete head-on in the three areas of folding catons, business forms and label printing. It would be commercial foolishness to let BPCC nominees into the boardroom.

Mr Maxwell has said he will sell his shares if his boardroom move fails. Waddington's offer, through its merchant

bank, Kleinwort Benson, to place Mr Maxwell's stake at the highest price in the market is still on the table. The offer was made before Mr Maxwell's public attack on the rights issue on Tuesday, but it is a condition that the placing will be after the rights issue.

Waddington shares have been very tightly held in recent months, suggesting that there are buyers out there. Alternatively the tightness might be due to hope of a renewed bid by BPCC.

Mr Maxwell can come back in September, but at yesterday's share prices, to succeed he would have to improve his previous offer of 13 BPCC shares for every five Waddington.

Another bid would be resisted as fiercely as the first by the Waddington board. Mr Perry worked for Mr Maxwell for six months, he was at BPCC when Mr Maxwell took over the sailing company. He does not relish a repeat.

NatWest beats the field with £236m rights issue

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

National Westminster Bank went a step further yesterday towards repairing the damage to its balance sheet resulting from the Budget, by announcing a £236m rights issue.

It is offering shareholders one new share, at an exceptionally big discount to the market price, for every two they already own and is promising a 5 per cent increase in both the interim and final dividend.

The bank also revealed that half-year profits, due out at the end of the month, would be £285m. This is broadly in line with City estimates and up from £230m in the same period last year.

NatWest has now gone a long way to restoring its balance sheet ratios, with the £400m it raised in April by issuing perpetual junior floating rate notes, worth £205m at today's exchange rates.

The two issues would raise the free capital ratio, a key measure of balance sheet strength, back up to 4.8 per cent, compared with 4.9 per

cent at the end of last year, the bank said.

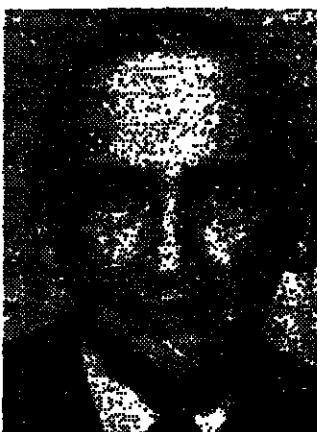
NatWest has also in effect queered the pitch for the other clearing banks, which might have been planning to tap shareholders for fresh funds.

It has squeezed its issues in just ahead of the half-year reporting season for the banks when bank shares have been performing relatively well after a long period of weakness.

Apart from Midland, which is seen as a special case, Barclays is considered to be most in need of new equity. But its shares were hit by the NatWest announcement, falling 30p to 444p yesterday and analysts believe that it would now have to shelve any plans it may have had for a rights issue.

The clearing banks all suffered from the tax changes in the Budget, which have affected their leasing businesses and forced them to make huge extra provisions for deferred tax which will now become payable.

Lord Boardman, NatWest's chairman, has said the changes will cost his bank about £650m,



Lord Boardman: tax changes will cost NatWest £650m

which has to come out of the capital base and the cost for all the big four clearers is about £1.9 billion.

The new shares are being offered at 200p, compared with the overnight price of 634p and yesterday's closing price for NatWest shares of 602p.

The big discount enables NatWest to include a large scrip element in the rights issue, thus

reducing its share price to a more manageable level under £5. Stripping out the forecast 12p net interim dividend, the likely ex-rights price is 460p. The big discount also saves the cost of having the issued underwriting when the City's underwriting capacity is stretched.

NatWest said that it had no pressing need for the money yesterday. "The time to raise rights capital is when you do not directly need it," according to Mr Charles Green, general manager, financial control division.

However, NatWest wants to be in a position to take advantage of opportunities which require capital. Becoming a primary dealer in government securities and buying a stockbroker to put together with County Bank and the stockbrokers, Biggs & Bishop, are two possibilities being considered which would need capital.

But Mr Green would not comment on reports that NatWest was talking to Fielding Newson-Smith. "We have not finalized our strategy here," he said.

S America whisky slump hits Distillers

By Jeremy Warner

The pretax profits of The Distillers Company fell from £205.3m to £191.6m in the year to the end of last March - hit by a collapse in once buoyant Latin American whisky markets.

The profits were flattened by a change in accounting practice - the figure for last year would have been £179.6m had the group used the old treatment of taking closure costs above the line - and by the strength of the dollar against the pound.

But these factors failed to compensate for a £30m decline in profits derived from selling Scotch to Latin American countries. Shipments to South and Central America dropped by a third due to repeated local currency devaluations and import restrictions.

The group expects an even worse performance in Latin America this year. Distillers is doing well in the United States, its biggest market, helped by the strong dollar, and Mr John Connell, the chairman, said an increase in United States duty planned in October next year and moves to lift the legal United States drinking age to 21 would not have too great an impact on sales.

Mr Connell did not expect the dollar to begin to affect business for another month.

Significant changes in the corporate and management structure of the group are expected to emerge over the next year. The company is lifting its final dividend from 8.5p to 9.15p.

Rothmans International, the tobacco group, also announced full-year profits for the same period yesterday. Helped by acquisitions and buoyant trading by the Carling O'Keefe brewing offshoot in Canada, pretax profits rose from £155m to £171.6m.

The group is planning further diversification so that within five years, around half of its profits would be derived from non-tobacco activities.

A final dividend of 4p is being paid on the group's "B" shares making a total for the year of 6p against 5.3p last time.

Plans 'threaten BA jobs and profits'

By Jonathan Davis, Financial Correspondent

The Civil Aviation Authority's plans for restructuring Britain's airline business could cost British Airways' profits by £76m a year, Lord King, the chairman, said yesterday.

If implemented in full, they would also mean the likely loss of 3,600 jobs - at a potential cost in redundancy payments of £70m. They would also put back the planned flotation of British Airways on the stock market for four to five years, Lord King said.

The figures are the first indication BA has given of the likely impact on its business of the changes recommended by the Civil Aviation Authority in its report on aviation competition policy published on Monday. They will form the backbone of the campaign which Lord King and his colleagues are waging - in Whitehall to try to have the CAA plans killed.

Mr Colin Marshall, BA's chief executive, said it was important that the Government reach a decision as soon as

possible. Staff morale had taken a big drop since the CAA produced its report, and any lasting damage to morale would affect the airline's future profitability.

Lord King said that Lord King, BA's financial adviser, had advised the board that the flotation, provisionally scheduled for early next year, would be impossible if the CAA report was implemented. It would take several years to establish a new track record of profitability if any routes were lost, and any prospectus would then have to point out that the CAA's plans would seriously impair BA's growth prospects.

BA's view is that, quite apart from the specific route transfers proposed by the CAA, the new general powers the authority is seeking to reallocate routes on competition grounds are approaching dictatorial proportions.

They alone would be enough to deter investors from buying shares, Mr Marshall said.

Competitive edge for Exchange

By Philip Robinson

The Stock Exchange formally unveiled its blueprint for future share dealing in London yesterday. Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman, said it would include electronic surveillance under which "the degree of investor protection rises very substantially".

The new systems - details have yet to be worked out - will allow brokers and jobbers to act as both agent and principal; have a price display service based broadly on the American NASDAQ system; and will incorporate a last-price-traded continuous tape which will give time and volume.

The move is designed to allow British firms to compete head-on for international business with the Americans and Japanese.

Indicating just how fierce international competition for share dealing is likely to become, the American and New York Stock Exchanges announced yesterday that they plan to study a system for 24-hour dealing.

Sterling up 1.7 cents

Sterling recovered sharply yesterday, ending the day 1.7 cents up at \$1.3290, on hopes of an early settlement of the dock strike and a temporary weakness in the dollar due to profit-taking. In the morning, the three-month interbank rate, now the key signal for a change in bank base rate, was above 12 1/2 per cent, but fell back to 12 1/4 - 12 3/4 per cent in the afternoon.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1003.0 down 6.0 (high: 1003.0; low: 996.9)
FT 100 Index: 1003.0 down 6.0
FT 100 Index: 1003.0 down 6.0
FT 100 Index: 1003.0 down 6.0
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FT 100 Index: 1003.0 down 6.0
FT 100 Index: 1003.0 down 6.0

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.3290 up 170 points
Index 78.6 up 0.4
DM 3.775 up 0.175
FF 11.5750 up 0.0565
Yen 322.25 up 2.25
Dollar
Index 136.8 down 0.1
DM 2.8470 down 0.0155
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.3285
Dollar DM 2.8435
INTERNATIONAL
ECU 20.594058
SFR 20.774064

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 12
Finance houses base rate 9 1/2
Discount market loans week fixed 12
3 month interbank 12 1/2 - 12 3/4
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 12 1/2 - 11 1/2
3 month DM 5 1/2 - 5 1/4
3 month FF 12 1/2 - 12 1/4
US rates:
Bank prime rate 13.00
Fed funds 11 1/2
Treasury bond 10 1/2 - 10 1/4
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period June 6 to July 3 1984, inclusive: 9.488 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
at \$352.35 pm \$350.20
close \$350.50 - 351.00 (\$264.25 - 264.75)
New York (lastest): \$352.25
Kruggerand (per coin):
\$361.00 - \$362.50 (\$272.25 - 273.25)
Sovereigns (new):
\$352.50 - \$353.00 (\$252.25 - 253.00)
Excludes VAT

Consumer spending up again

Consumer spending bounced back to a new high in the second quarter of this year, after a fall in the first. In volume terms, consumer expenditure dropped 1.4 per cent between October-December, 1983 and January-March, 1984, but rose 1.9 per cent in the April-June quarter, according to preliminary estimates from the Central Statistical Office yesterday.

Most of the swing is explained by the sharp changes already recorded in retail sales, which account for about half of all consumer spending.

BRITISH ELECTRIC TRACTION has increased its pretax profits for the year to March 31 from £70.1m to £85.7m. Turnover increased from £1,002m to £1,074m. A final dividend of 9.75p makes 12p for the year against 9.99p last time. Tempus, page 15

● GUSTETNER HOLDINGS, the office equipment group, saw pretax profits in the 26 weeks to May 5 fall to £2.9m down from £3.4m. Turnover increased from £178.4m to £180.4m. Tempus, page 15

● GREAT UNIVERSAL STORES is to pay a final dividend of 10.5p (9p) making a total for the year to March 31, 1984 of 16p (14p). Sales were £2 billion (£1.8 billion) Tempus, page 15

Deadline extended for PCW names

By Alison Eadie

Minet and Alexander & Alexander Services have extended their deadline for acceptance of their £38.17m compensation offer to Lloyd's names from noon yesterday to 5pm next Tuesday. The new deadline is final, they say.

By yesterday's deadline, acceptances had reached 1,335, or

87 per cent of the total number of PCW syndicate members. However, this was not high enough and Minet and Alexander hope more acceptances will come in during the next five days.

Lloyd's is sticking to its Saturday deadline for names to produce their solvency audit certificates. Mr Ian Hay Davi-

son, chief executive of Lloyd's, said yesterday that 350 PCW names had not yet filed certificates and, if they did not by Saturday, Lloyd's central fund would be faced by deficiencies of £14m. The net fund stands at £134m.

Lloyd's intends to suspend from underwriting all names who do not meet Saturday's deadline.

Maxwell wants BPCC to print supplements Sunday magazines for Mirror

By William Kay City Editor

Mr Robert Maxwell, the new proprietor of Mirror Group Newspapers (MGN), disclosed yesterday that he wants to launch colour supplements for the group's three Sunday newspapers "as a matter of the utmost urgency". MGN owns the Sunday Mirror, Sunday People and, in Scotland, the Sunday Mail.

Each of the three would have its own supplement, but they would share what Mr Maxwell described as "a common core" of 16 to 24 pages. The rest would be tailored individually.

"It seems eminently sensible," he said. "MGN has the picture and editorial ability, and BPCC has the printing skills." BPCC (British Printing and Communication Corporation), in which Mr Maxwell has a 75 per cent stake, already prints The Observer and The Sunday Times magazines.

Mr Maxwell took over at MGN a week ago, after buying the company for a net £90m from Reed International, the paper and publishing group.



Robert Maxwell: BPCC will benefit from Mirror

He was keen to emphasize the benefits which will flow to BPCC from the Mirror. An increasing amount of Mirror-related printing will be handled to BPCC, while any risk will be borne by Pergamon Press, he said. Pergamon is Mr Maxwell's private company, through which MGN was bought.

Mr Maxwell clearly is anxious to maintain as smooth and untroubled an atmosphere at MGN as is possible under such circumstances. He said: "There are no problems there, they are

a marvellous set of people. I have made no promises or threats of deadlines."

"There was an initial shock, because they believed MGN was going to be floated, but things are humming at the Mirror now. It is a very successful group."

Mr Maxwell denied speculation that the Sunday People was losing money, but said he was looking for a new editor for The Sporting Life, the group's daily racing paper.

He said he was not interfering editorially.

Nevertheless, he said that Miss Koo Stark, the actress who at one time was linked with Prince Andrew, would not be appearing in the Mirror quite so often in future. "People are sick and tired of her," he said.

Meanwhile, Mr Maxwell is pressing on with plans to launch a new London evening newspaper in the autumn. But he conceded there were difficulties in arranging distribution - not least because the existing London evening paper, The Standard, controls a number of the street sales pitches.

Dixons
Group plc
"Another record year....
....I have never been more optimistic about the future growth of Dixons"

STANLEY KALMS, Chairman

SALES	PROFIT BEFORE TAX	EARNINGS PER SHARE
+31%	+46%	+25%
At £351m	At £20.6m	At 29.8p

Retail Division Highlights

- 1980-1984 profit growth 46% per annum
- 98% increase in profits for 1983/84.
- Market share and sales increases recorded in all major product groups. Sales of:

Portable audio up 65%
Videos up 28%
Colour TVs up 76%
Home computers up 348%
35mm cameras up 127%

● £13.5m capital investment. 61,000 sq. ft. added (now 473,000 sq. ft. in total).

● Major £18m expansion planned for 1984/85. Over 40 new stores to be opened.

Other Highlights

- Significant growth in Processing Division.
- Strong second half Property Division performance continuing into the current year.
- Final dividend per share up 29%
- Shareholders' funds increase to £113m (£84m April 1983)

"This year has started particularly well..."

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

	1983/4	1982/3
Sales	350,758	268,365
Profit before Tax	14,811	7,468
Retail	401	(314)
Processing	642	880
Distribution	2,348	2,285
Property	2,515	3,712
Group profit before tax	20,553	14,031
Group profit after tax	17,600	12,273
Earnings per share	29.8p	23.8p
Final Dividend	3.4p	2.64p



By Derek Pain and Michael Clark

10th September, 1964.

Lovell

RAS

RIUNIONE ADRIATICA DI SICURTA'

MILAN - ITALY

The Annual General Meeting of Riunione Adriatica di Sicurtà was held in Milan on 27th June 1984 with Mr. Franz Schmitz in the chair. The Meeting adopted the Company's Accounts for the year ended 31st December 1983, highlights from which appear on the right.

A dividend of Lit. 950 per share was declared on all shares ranking for dividends as from 1st January 1983. In their Report, the Directors emphasise the favourable effects of management policy during the year, which resulted in an overall improvement in claims ratios (except in the third-motor liability account, where a substantial underwriting deficit was again incurred) and enhanced productivity as reflected in higher margins.

Of the Company's total premium income of Lit. 1,173 bn, Lit. 852 bn. represented primary business written in Italy, which rose by 17.7%. Growth in the Life Branch was particularly satisfactory, with premium volume rising by 22.5% overall and by 25% in individual assurances.

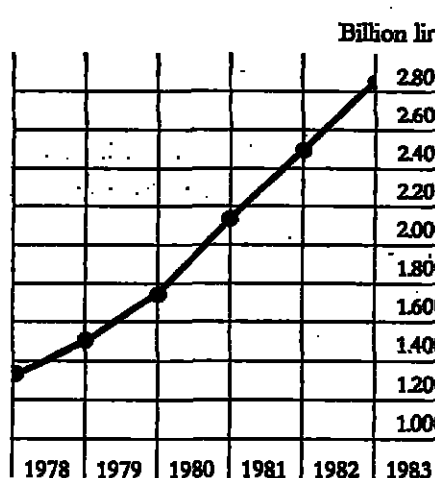
Volume increases in excess of the inflation rate were also achieved in Italy in the Fire, Health, Miscellaneous Motor, Health and Theft Accounts while somewhat lower increments took place in the Marine, Accident, General Liability and minor accounts.

After adopting the Accounts, the Meeting elected a Statutory Audit Committee in place of that whose three-year term of office had expired. Mr. Alberto Falck was formally appointed a Director of the Company following his co-option to the Board upon the resignation of Mr. Ettore Lolli, who has been elected Honorary Chairman. Finally, Mr. Alfredo Solustri, former General Manager of Confindustria, was also elected Director.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACCOUNTS (L) RAS ONLY, DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN BRANCH OFFICES

	1983
Premium Income	488,639,558
Investment Income	82,150,154
Claims, Maturities and other Benefits paid	277,701,799
Insurance Reserves, Non-Life Branch	438,850,814
Insurance Reserves, Life Branch	324,444,937
Life Sums assured	2,521,755,994
Share Capital	36,408,841
General Reserves	221,805,112
Profit for the year	6,274,480

PREMIUM INCOME OF THE RAS GROUP (ITALY AND ABROAD)



SALES OF THE RAS GROUP

Premium income breakdown in 1983 (in L)

RAS (in Italy and abroad)	488,639,558
Other Italian Group Companies	98,768,600
Foreign Group Companies	601,566,677
Total premiums	1,188,974,835
RAS Group, Life Business	
Total Sums assured	£ 5,575,882,972

Britain's largest independent overseas bank plans to expand at home. Jeremy Warner reports

Standard Chartered's low road to growth

Mr Norman Tebbit's merger policy statement may have seemed ineffectual and disappointing to most, but at the Clements Lane offices of Standard Chartered Bank in the City it was read with considerable interest.

Two and a half years after having its £500m. bid for Royal Bank of Scotland Group blocked on Scottish regional grounds by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, Standard Chartered is still searching for a way of increasing its presence in Britain.

Standard's managing director, Mr Michael McWilliam, says: "We have looked carefully at whether the statement would allow us to reopen the matter, but precedent shows that it is extremely difficult to go against the findings of the Monopolies Commission, however much policy might change in the meantime."

"We cannot sit around waiting for that possible turn of events that might allow release from the undertakings we gave not to bid. For the purposes of strategic planning we have to accept that the authorities have ruled us out."

The overall objective at Standard, Britain's largest independent overseas bank, remains the same - to build up a domestic base which will balance the group's heavy exposure to politically and economically unstable areas of the world. In the absence of the Royal, it is proving difficult to achieve.

In 1983, Standard Chartered made pre-tax profits of £268.1m and had assets at the end of the year of more than £28 billion. Yet only 19 per cent of profits came from its home base in Europe. About 35 per cent of profits came from South Africa.

The bank made its first big move towards rebalancing its assets and profit base in 1979 when it bought Union Bank of California. Thwarted in its attempt to buy Royal Bank, it built on its existing highly successful wholesale banking operation in Britain with the acquisition for £43m. of the consortium bank, Midland and International, in February 1983.

But it still cherishes the ambition of becoming a big force in retail banking in Britain. Its options for building such a presence are limited. Standard has discovered to its intense frustration that to grow organically is a slow expensive process.

Even its application to become a clearing bank, which will surely be looked on favourably eventually, has been shelved because of the Child Committee's general review of the clearing bank system.

Chartered Trust, the bank's finance house with its 70 branch offices, has been successful in developing new types of consumer lending with its "money shops" but again the process is proving exceptionally slow. Even the group's link with the Bristol and West, giving it access to the consumer market through the building society's

'All the while we are looking for ways to jump on to the high road'

156 branches, has gone far more slowly than planned.

With deregulation the buzz word among the building societies now, there are clearly further possibilities to pursue in this direction.

In South Africa, the group has carved a pioneering reputation by increasing its stake to more than 50 per cent in Liberty Life, one of the biggest life assurance companies there, and forming close ties with the country's largest building society, UBS. It would plainly like to mirror such an experiment in Britain.

Another possibility is that of offering financial services through department stores.

Mr McWilliam takes up the theme: "In some respects, starting with a clean bill in retail banking gives you an advantage over the established banks with the huge cost structure implicit in their branch networks. What we are trying to do is get at a

significant number of consumers without coming under that sort of cost structure."

But he admits that it will take a long while for such a route into retail banking to yield results.

He says: "There are two roads you can take - the low road and the high road. You can make a big acquisition and accomplish your objectives that way. At the moment we are winding our way along the low road, but all the while we are looking for a way of accelerating the process by jumping onto the high road."

When the timing is right Standard will jump. Its interest in taking part in the City revolution, by buying into some established areas previously denied it, is already well known. It has been talking to a number of stock brokers.

But if it were truly to mirror its development in South Africa it might well be looking at a sizable insurance company or broker with an established and well spread branch network.

One City way says that the biggest mistake Standard has made since it was formed in 1970 out of the merger of two colonial banks - one African and one Far Eastern - was in leaving the public relations to Royal Bank of Scotland Group, when it made its agreed and finally fruitless bid.

Standard does adopt a low profile. But underneath this self-effacing surface is a bank that has avoided many of the pitfalls that have hit its larger British banking rivals.

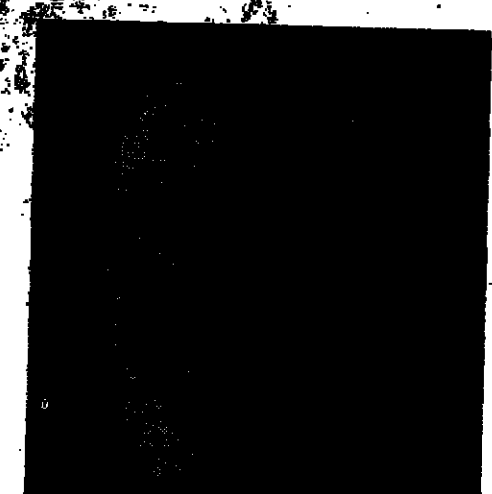
Its exposure to Latin America is small. Its lending is predominantly trade-based and the proportion of sovereign debt on its books is low compared with others.

If it has caught a bad cold on the Hongkong property market, it also made an inspired purchase in Union Bank of California, which has conspicuously avoided the problems incurred by the Midland Bank's Crocker National Corporation.

But while South Africa figures so significantly in the profits and assets equation, Standard will not be afforded the stock market rating it deserves.

1983/84	1984/85	1985/86	1986/87	1987/88	1988/89	1989/90	1990/91	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36	2036/37	2037/38	2038/39	2039/40	2040/41	2041/42	2042/43	2043/44	2044/45	2045/46	2046/47	2047/48	2048/49	2049/50	2050/51	2051/52	2052/53	2053/54	2054/55	2055/56	2056/57	2057/58	2058/59	2059/60	2060/61	2061/62	2062/63	2063/64	2064/65	2065/66	2066/67	2067/68	2068/69	2069/70	2070/71	2071/72	2072/73	2073/74	2074/75	2075/76	2076/77	2077/78	2078/79	2079/80	2080/81	2081/82	2082/83	2083/84	2084/85	2085/86	2086/87	2087/88	2088/89	2089/90	2090/91	2091/92	2092/93	2093/94	2094/95	2095/96	2096/97	2097/98	2098/99	2099/00	2100/01	2101/02	2102/03	2103/04	2104/05	2105/06	2106/07	2107/08	2108/09	2109/10	2110/11	2111/12	2112/13	2113/14	2114/15	2115/16	2116/17	2117/18	2118/19	2119/20	2120/21	2121/22	2122/23	2123/24	2124/25	2125/26	2126/27	2127/28	2128/29	2129/30	2130/31	2131/32	2132/33	2133/34	2134/35	2135/36	2136/37	2137/38	2138/39	2139/40	2140/41	2141/42	2142/43	2143/44	2144/45	2145/46	2146/47	2147/48	2148/49	2149/50	2150/51	2151/52	2152/53	2153/54	2154/55	2155/56	2156/57	2157/58	2158/59	2159/60	2160/61	2161/62	2162/63	2163/64	2164/65	2165/66	2166/67	2167/68	2168/69	2169/70	2170/71	2171/72	2172/73	2173/74	2174/75	2175/76	2176/77	2177/78	2178/79	2179/80	2180/81	2181/82	2182/83	2183/84	2184/85	2185/86	2186/87	2187/88	2188/89	2189/90	2190/91	2191/92	2192/93	2193/94	2194/95	2195/96	2196/97	2197/98	2198/99	2199/00	2200/01	2201/02	2202/03	2203/04	2204/05	2205/06	2206/07	2207/08	2208/09	2209/10	2210/11	2211/12	2212/13	2213/14	2214/15	2215/16	2216/17	2217/18	2218/19	2219/20	2220/21	2221/22	2222/23	2223/24	2224/25	2225/26	2226/27	2227/28	2228/29	2229/30	2230/31	2231/32	2232/33	2233/34	2234/35	2235/36	2236/37	2237/38	2238/39	2239/40	2240/41	2241/42	2242/43	2243/44	2244/45	2245/46	2246/47	2247/48	2248/49	2249/50	2250/51	2251/52	2252/53	2253/54	2254/55	2255/56	2256/57	2257/58	2258/59	2259/60	2260/61	2261/62	2262/63	2263/64	2264/65	2265/66	2266/67	2267/68	2268/69	2269/70	2270/71	2271/72	2272/73	2273/74	2274/75	2275/76	2276/77	2277/78	2278/79	2279/80	2280/81	2281/82	2282/83	2283/84	2284/85	2285/86	2286/87	2287/88	2288/89	2289/90	2290/91	2291/92	2292/93	2293/94	2294/95	2295/96	2296/97	2297/98	2298/99	2299/00	2300/01	2301/02	2302/03	2303/04	2304/05	2305/06	2306/07	2307/08	2308/09	2309/10	2310/11	2311/12	2312/13	2313/14	2314/15	2315/16	2316/17	2317/18	2318/19	2319/20	2320/21	2321/22	2322/23	2323/24	2324/25	2325/26	2326/27	2327/28	2328/29	2329/30	2330/31	2331/32	2332/33	2333/34	2334/35	2335/36	2336/37	2337/38	2338/39	2339/40	2340/41	2341/42	2342/43	2343/44	2344/45	2345/46	2346/47	2347/48	2348/49	2349/50	2350/51	2351/52	2352/53	2353/54	2354/55	2355/56	2356/57	2357/58	2358/59	2359/60	2360/61	2361/62	2362/63	2363/64	2364/65	2365/66	2366/67	2367/68	2368/69	2369/70	2370/71	2371/72	2372/73	2373/74	2374/75	2375/76	2376/77	2377/78	2378/79	2379/80	2380/81	2381/82	2382/83	2383/84	2384/85	2385/86	2386/87	2387/88	2388/89	2389/90	2390/91	2391/92	2392/93	2393/94	2394/95	2395/96	2396/97	2397/98	2398/99	2399/00	2400/01	2401/02	2402/03	2403/04	2404/05	2405/06	2406/07	2407/08	2408/09	2409/10	2410/11	2411/12	2412/13	2413/14	2414/15	2415/16	2416/17	2417/18	2418/19	2419/20	2420/21	2421/22	2422/23	2423/24	2424/25	2425/26	2426/27	2427/28	2428/29	2429/30	2430/31	2431/32	2432/33	2433/34	2434/35	2435/36	2436/37	2437/38	2438/39	2439/40	2440/41	2441/42	2442/43	2443/44	2444/45	2445/46	2446/47	2447/48	2448/49	2449/50	2450/51	2451/52	2452/53	2453/54	2454/55	2455/56	2456/57	2457/58	2458/59	2459/60	2460/61	2461/62	2462/63	2463/64	2464/65	2465/66	2466/67	2467/68	2468/69	2469/70	2470/71	2471/72	2472/73	2473/74	2474/75	2475/76	2476/77	2477/78	2478/79	2479/80	2480/81	2481/82	2482/83	2483/84	2484/85	2485/86	2486/87	2487/88	2488/89	2489/90	2490/91	2491/92	2492/93	2493/94	2494/95	2495/96	2496/97	2497/98	2498/99	2499/00	2500/01	2501/02	2502/03	2503/04	2504/05	2505/06	2506/07	2507/08	2508/09	2509/10	2510/11	2511/12	2512/13	2513/14	2514/15	2515/16	2516/17	2517/18	2518/19	2519/20	2520/21	2521/22	2522/23	2523/24	2524/25	2525/26	2526/27	2527/28	2528/29	2529/30	2530/31	2531/32	2532/33	2533/34	2534/35	2535/36	2536/37	2537/38	2538/39	2539/40	2540/41	2541/42	2542/43	2543/44	2544/45	2545/46	2546/47	2547/48	2548/49	2549/50	2550/51	2551/52	2552/53	2553/54	2554/55	2555/56	2556/57	2557/58	2558/59	2559/60	2560/61	2561/62	2562/63	2563/64	2564/65	2565/66	2566/67	2567/68	2568/69	2569/70	2570/71	2571/72	2572/73	2573/74	2574/75	2575/76	2576/77	2577/78	2578/79	2579/80	2580/81	2581/82	2582/83	2583/84	2584/85	2585/86	2586/87	2587/88	2588/89	2589/90	2590/91	2591/92	2592/93	2593/94	2594/95	2595/96	2596/97	2597/98	2598/99	2599/00	2600/01	2601/02	2602/03	2603/04	2604/05	2605/06	2606/07	2607/08	2608/09	2609/10	2610/11	2611/12	2612/13	2613/14	2614/15	2615/16	2616/17	2617/18	2618/19	2619/20	2620/21	2621/22	2622/23	2623/24	2624/25	2625/26	2626/27	2627/28	2628/29	2629/30	2630/31	2631/32	2632/33	2633/34	2634/35	2635/36	2636/37	2637/38	2638/39	2639/40	2640/41	2641/42	2642/43	2643/44	2644/45	2645/46	2646/47	2647/48	2648/49	2649/50	2650/51	2651/52	2652/53	2653/54	2654/55	2655/56	2656/57	2657/58	2658/59	2659/60	2660/61	2661/62	2662/63	2663/64	2664/65	2665/66	2666/67	2667/68	2668/69	2669/70	2670/71	2671/72	2672/73	2673/74	2674/75	2675/76	2676/77	2677/78	2678/79	2679/80	2680/81	2681/82	2682/83	2683/84	2684/85	2685/86	2686/87	2687/88	2688/89	2689/90	2690/91	2691/92	2692/93	2693/94	2694/95	2695/96	2696/97	2697/98	2698/99	2699/00	2700/01	2701/02	2702/03	2703/04	2704/05	2705/06	2706/07	2707/08	2708/09	2709/10	2710/11	2711/12	2712/13	2713/14	2714/15	2715/16	2716/17	2717/18	2718/19	2719/20	2720/21	2721/22	2722/23	2723/24	2724/25	2725/26	2726/27	2727/28	2728/29	2729/30	2730/31	2731/32	2732/33	2733/34	2734/35	2735/36	2736/37	2737/38	2738/39	2739/40	2740/41	2741/42	2742/43	2743/44	2744/45	2745/46	2746/47	2747/48	2748/49	2749/50	2750/51	2751/52	2752/53	2753/54	2754/55	2755/56	2756/57	2757/58	2758/59	2759/60	2760/61	2761/62	2762/63	2763/64	2764/65	2765/66	2766/67	2767/68	2768/69	2769/70	2770/71	2771/72	2772/73	2773/74	2774/75	2775/76	2776/77	2777/78	2778/79	2779/80	2780/81	2781/82	2782/83	2783/84	2784/85	2785/86	2786/87	2787/88	2788/89	2789/90	2790/91	2791/92	2792/93	2793/94	2794/95	2795/96	2796/97	2797/98	2798/99	2799/00	2800/01	2801/02	2802/03	2803/04	2804/05	2805/06	2806/07	2807/08	2808/09	2809/10	2810/11	2811/12	2812/13	2813/14	2814/15	2815/16	2816/17	2817/18	2818/19	2819/20	2820/21	2821/22	2822/23	2823/24	2824/25	2825/26	2826/27	2827/28	2828/29	2829/30	2830/31	2831/32	2832/33	2833/34	2834/35	2835/36	2836/37	2837/38	2838/39	2839/40	2840/41	2841/42	2842/43	2843/44	2844/45	2845/46	2846/47	2847/48	2848/49	2849/50	2850/51	2851/52	2852/53	2853/54	2854/55	2855/56	2856/57	2857/58	2858/59	2859/60	2860/61	2861/62	2862/63	2863/64	2864/65	2865/66	2866/67	2867/68	2868/69	2869/70	2870/71	2871/72	2872/73	2873/74	2874/75	2875/76	2876/77	2877/78	2878/79	2879/80	2880/81	2881/82	2882/83	2883/84	2884/85	2885/86	2886/87	2887/88	2888/89	2889/90	2890/91	2891/92	2892/93	2893/94	2894/95	2895/96	2896/97	2897/98	2898/99	2899/00	2900/01	2901/02	2902/03	2903/04	2904/05	2905/06	2906/07	2907/08	2908/09	2909/10	2910/11	2911/12	2912/13	2913/14	2914/15	2915/16	2916/17	2917/18	2918/19	2919/20	2920/21	2921/22	2922/23	2923/24	2924/25	2925/26	2926/27	2927/28	2928/29	2929/30	2930/31	2931/32	2932/33	2933/34	2934/35	2935/36	2936/37	2937/38	2938/39	2939/40	2940/41	2941/42	2942/43	2943/44	2944/45	2945/46	2946/47	2947/48	2948/49	2949/50	2950/51	2951/52	2952/53	2953/54	2954/55	2955/56	2956/57	2957/58	2958/59	2959/60	2960/61	2961/62	2962/63	2963/64	2964/65	2965/66	2966/67	2967/68	2968/69	2969/70	2970/71	2971/72	2972/73	2973/74	2974/75	2975/76	2976/77	2977/78	2978/79	2979/80	2980/81	2981/82	2982/83	2983/84	2984/85	2985/86	2986/87	2987/88	2988/89	2989/90	2990/91	2991/92	2992/93	2993/94	2994/95	2995/96	2996/97	2997/98	2998/99	2999/00	3000/01	3001/02	3002/03	3003/04	3004/05	3005/06	3006/07	3007/08	3008/09	3009/10	3010/11	3011/12	3012/13	3013/14	3014/1
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In 1983-84 "All parts of British Telecom contributed to our growth in business volume"



Sir George Jefferson CBE,
Chairman, British Telecom.

Extracts from the Chairman's statement

- “In writing what is likely to be the last annual report of British Telecom before it moves from the public to the private sector, it is pleasing to record that our business is well placed to make this transition.”
- “... overall performance represents a satisfactory achievement, building on the progress made in recent years.”
- “As forecast, the second half of the year showed an improvement on the first six months.”
- “All parts of British Telecom contributed to our 7½ per cent growth in business volume.”
- “Overall a 5.8 per cent reduction in real unit costs calculated on the current cost basis was achieved.”
- “During the year the whole of our large capital investment was financed internally, the loan capital reduced by £447m and our net cash position strengthened by £141m.”
- “There have been considerable improvements in service in the past year and although we are not complacent and recognise that there is still much to be done, we can take some pride in what has been achieved.”
- “The improvement and extension of our services were achieved in a year when total staff numbers reduced by 4,852. We are on course for our planned reduction of about 15,000 over the three years to March 1985. This reduction is being achieved mainly by natural wastage and early retirements.”

Financial highlights

Financial Results		
	1984	
Turnover	£6,876m	
Profit	£990m	
Profit on turnover	14.4%	
Return on capital employed (profit before interest on loan capital and on the long-term liability)	17.7%	
Current cost profit without gearing adjustment	£572m	
Financial Performance		
	1984	
Return on current cost capital employed:		
Financial target	6.5%	
Achieved	7.7%	
Reduction in borrowing	£147m	
Reduction in real unit costs	5.8%	
Business Growth		
	1982-83 Thousands	1983-84 Thousands
Telephones working at year end	28,882	29,336
Exchange connections working at year end	19,429	20,065
Local calls	17,800,000	18,750,000
Trunk calls	3,603,000	3,931,000
International telephone calls	322,080	369,000

- More than 3,700 push button electronic pay phones were installed during the year, bringing the total up to nearly 7,000.
- International Direct Dialling is available to all UK customers, who can now dial direct to 137 countries.
- The number of calls from world shipping increased by 42 per cent.
- A contract was placed with Standard Telephones and Cables for the World's first international optical fibre submarine cable system, to be laid between the UK and Belgium in 1985. Agreement was also reached to place the first trans-Atlantic optical fibre cable during 1988.

British Telecom also publishes a companion document, "A Report To Customers," which records the Corporation's continuing commitment to the community. To obtain a copy please telephone 0272 276664 or write to British Telecom Report, Freepost (BS 3333), Bristol BS1 4YP.





LOW TAR As defined by H.M. Government

DANGER: Government Health WARNING:

CIGARETTES CAN SERIOUSLY DAMAGE YOUR HEALTH

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

MOTOR RACING: BANNED BRITISH TEAM HOPE TO PROVE INNOCENCE

Case may seek court and rejoin 61 circuit

Ken's father, Ken Hanes, who was very athletic himself, wanted his son to take part in sports. But Ken's Grand Prix at which he won \$10,000 this morning was a challenge against the race taking place may, paradoxically, be his final one as champion.

Hanes, yesterday afternoon, said: "We will do everything we can to ensure that Ken's cars race this weekend, but of course we must also ensure that he has no other commitments."

On Wednesday afternoon he was told that his team had been banned from taking part in the race, and in the remaining days of the world championship would have to make their own way to the finish line.

[illegible]

Dallas face track criticism

been entirely legal according to the wording of the rule book. The real test is that until we have a way to do this without doing our business of the world in the normal way.

The complexity of the FIA statement suggests that the governing body has thrown the book at Tyrrell, who has been something of a thorn in their side as a result of his continuing efforts to see fair play on many matters concerning grand prix racing.

They claim that his car contravenes four separate regulations - those stating that no refuelling is allowed during the race (none took place, Bob Tyrrell said), that the fuel did not comply with regulations (in what way, he asked), that the fuel lines should have safety warnings and markings and that the fuel pump was not properly

Paris (Reuters) — The organizers of the Dallas Grand Prix have been summoned to answer questions of the race committee of the international motor sport body, the FIA, which announced yesterday following the provocative comments, stating at the time that it intended the race.

The FIA president, Jean-Marie Balestre, said that the FIA would not approve the race unless the organizers of the Fair Fairs and Sports Association, which broke up the Grand Prix race earlier this month, and the Dallas organizers must also sign a \$250,000 bond (approximately \$154,000) to guarantee that work done necessary by the federation's safety commission is carried out. FISA said.

A \$5,000 fine (approximately \$4,600) has been imposed on the British driver, Nigel Mansell, of Lotus, for what the federation decided were dangerous tactics at the start of the Detroit Grand Prix last month.

Ireland's winning triple can make it a double

The first of the new arrivals, the 100,000th, was a young woman, 21 years old, from the city of Chicago. She was the first of a large group of young people who had come to the city to seek their fortune. The first of the new arrivals, the 100,000th, was a young woman, 21 years old, from the city of Chicago. She was the first of a large group of young people who had come to the city to seek their fortune.

Coppell up against a wily cup foe

[illegible]

The new
National Savings
**YEARLY
PLAN**

WHAT IT IS

- You can save with no fuss or bother by monthly standing order.
- You need only save for one year—or carry on if you want to.
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- You will earn all of your interest free of tax.

If you have between £20-£100 a month to save fill in the coupon and we will send you full details and an application form.



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Address

Posterboard

Clubs cleared

Bournemouth and Millwall have been pleased by the FA after crowd trouble when the two sides met in the Associate Members' Cup match at Dean Court at the end of last season.

HOCKEY

Awards go to Leman and Miss Brown

By Sydney Friskin
Richard Leman, of East Grinstead, and Karen Brown, of Orpington, yesterday won the Hockey Writers' Club's Players of the Year awards, sponsored by Bovril, for the season 1983-84. The presentation of the trophies took place in London.

Leman, of East Grinstead, Sussex, England and Britain, has 75 England caps (indoors and outdoors) and is now on his way to Los Angeles to play for Britain in the Olympic Games. He was a member of England's silver medal-winning team at the European indoor championship in Edinburgh last season, and played an important part in East Grinstead's success in winning the national club championship, scoring the winning goal against Blackheath.

Miss Brown came into prominence last March, as a substitute for England against Ireland at Wom-
New

<input type="checkbox"/> Results of operations in Latin America	<input type="checkbox"/> Secondary South American operations
<input type="checkbox"/> Sales performance in U.S.	<input type="checkbox"/> Exports to U.S.
<input type="checkbox"/> Export sales from other countries	<input type="checkbox"/> Imports from other countries
<input type="checkbox"/> Road construction activities	

MARCH 1984

1983

PROFIT BEFORE TAXES	6.3	7.2
TAXES	(0.3)	(0.3)
PROFIT AFTER TAXES	6.0	6.9
DIVIDENDS PAID	1.5	1.5
RETAINED EARNINGS	4.5	5.4
EARNINGS PER SHARE	35.35p	38.29p
DIVIDENDS PER SHARE	4.50p	4.50p
Interim dividend paid	9.15p	8.50p
Final dividend proposed	13.65p	13.00p

The comparative figures for 1983 have been restated to reflect a change in accounting treatment of rationalisation, redundancy and closure costs.

The Distillers Company plc



Norman helps Longmuir turn the clock back five years and share the lead

The lion roars over the course

By John Hennessy

It would be dangerous to assume too much about only one round, but Greg Norman stamped himself yesterday as a man capable of taking the Open championship from Tom Watson. They played together, with Bernhard Langer for company, three players of distinction, but Norman outscored his partners not only by six strokes, 69-68, but also by his air of brimming self-confidence.

With his platinum mane flowing in the breeze coming home, Norman ranged the Old Course more like a lion than the Great White Shark that his agents like to promote as a commercial gimmick. He was a lion, a lion of the savannah, true, by nature, and in the

background as the Austrians plundered St Andrews in conditions as kind as they are likely to meet all week, perhaps all year.

In eight successive holes, starting with the eighth, Norman fashioned six handsome birdies and could easily have stolen two more strokes in that purple passage. With a bit of help from the wind he drove the 10th (342 yards), narrowly skirting the hole with his tee shot, and his eagle putt from eight feet did the likewise. At the eighth, after he had been denied a free drop for what he

optimistically thought might be a rabbit scrape, he hit a blind fowling iron to eight feet and again failed with a plausible putt.


He was driving prodigious distances, mostly on unerring line, but twice he was unlucky enough to find poor lies on the fairway and dropped shots. Then, at the 17th, he faced a colossal tee shot over the country club sheds but his three-iron second left him with a nasty little bump to negotiate beside the Road Hole bunker. The line baffled him and, 10 feet from the left, he

It was spectacular golf, wholly typical of Norman's conquests this season in the United States, and, though Watson professed himself satisfied with his score, his round was pallid stuff by comparison. In some ways, it was, curiously enough, vintage Watson, with only the 17th defying his shot to the green throughout the round, but the precision we have come to expect was lacking and he was asking much too much even of his gifted putter.

Watson achieved two birdies, and surrendered a shot only at the 17th.

which in any case averaged almost a year yesterday. The 18th threatened his position, for his hooked tee shot finished on Granny Clark's synd and an eight iron off the tarmac, cleanly stuck, deposited him in the arms of Sin, but his putter did not fall him.

Langer, driving left for safety most of the time, opened with a superb three over Swilcan burn, but Ilie Watson he seemed to lack inspiration - or perhaps the glitter of Norman's golf was distorting our critical faculties.



Langer: self-effacing

Card of course

Hole	Yds	Par	Hole	Yds	Par
1	370	4	10	342	4
2	411	4	11	172	3
3	371	4	12	316	4

4	483	4	13	425	4
5	584	5	14	567	5
6	416	6	15	413	6
7	372	7	16	382	7
8	178	8	17	461	8
9	359	9	18	354	9
Out 3,501 86		In 3,432 36			

Hole-in-one family

Edna Smith, a housewife, has become the third member of her family to record a hole in one at the Warren Golf Club in Dawlish, Devon. Last year, her husband, Dennis, did one and, earlier this year, so did her daughter, Sue. All three happened at different holes.

[illegible]

In terms of wins, Casarejo's success put them level with the BBs and left the Les Diables Bleus, each having three. But league position being ultimately determined by the total number of goals scored, BBs are top, Les Diables' second and Casarejo-Tacones third in league.

Britain recover from two blows.

The British women's coxed four scored an historic first by qualifying for the final, the first British crew to do so in that event. In the men's events, the coxed pair from St Edward's School qualified for their

BASEBALL
AMERICAN LEAGUE: New York Yankees 3, Texas Rangers 1; Oakland A's 7, Boston Red Sox 2; Milwaukee Brewers 5, Seattle Mariners 2; Minnesota Twins 3, Baltimore Orioles 1; Chicago White Sox 10, Detroit Tigers 6; Cleveland Indians 2, Kansas City Royals 1.

CRICKET
SCHOOLS: Chisum Festival: Tonbridge 245-5

sec; 2, D Phinney (US); 3, F Vesslyn (Bel).

new record score, under present conditions, of 521 out of a possible 560, beating Harrow into second place by three points.

Bedford, who have only been in the competition since 1969, produced an example of good team shooting, with all eight boys scoring 60 or more out of 70.

Caterham House 3/2, Maresfield 10/6p, Hoping 8/9p
Mabram 20/3; 2. Ruxby 20/0; Financial Times
Cap (snack) T A Sergeant (Tonbridge) 8/0
Service Rifle Sub-machine Gun Cap Private
A Clemison (1st Kings Own Border), 13-
Roberts Cap: Parachute Regiment 75, Imperial
Tobacco Cap: Col G. Humphreys 2/2 Ghurkha
CIBest 11/8, Royal Avenue, Cap Argyle, Col

unable to train on Wednesday evening. "If I don't run, I'll go straight to the US, and try and get a race out there", Cram said.

FOOTBALL: Bernard Joy, the

C-Mazzetti (W) 4-2-6-4; O'Brien (W) 4-2-6-4;
Tideman (Sw) 4-4-4; Bazzani (F) 4-5-4;
5-2 H. Szabo (Sw) 4-4-4;
Kuchars (Fr) 4-1, 4-1; J. Nyström (Sw) 4-4-4;
Pozzo (Italy) 4-2, 4-2; J. Nyström (Sw) 4-4-4;
(Czech) 4-4-4;
Schippers (Neth) 4-4-4; P. Wier (Sw) 4-4-4, 4-4-4;
Schippers (Neth) 4-4-4; P. Wier (Sw) 4-4-4, 4-4-4;

6.30 (70) 1, North Queen (L. Floetz, 4-T; 2-T; 2-T; 2-T)
 Theophrast (11-2; 3, Best Lady (20-1)

236.05. PLACEPOT: 2177.00.

hits a sunshine century

(continued)

CRICKET

Surrey can make enough runs to give themselves a fair chance

By John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent

Of the eight sides who will contest the quarter-finals of the NatWest Trophy to be played on Wednesday, August 1, only Leicestershire have not previously won the competition, whether during its Gillette sponsorship or since the National Westminster Bank took over. Yesterday's draw gave them a local derby against Northamptonshire at Northampton.

The other matches are inter-regional. Somerset, the holders, entertain Kent at Taunton; Surrey go north to Edgbaston and Lancashire south to Lord's. All three will be away for the second round running. Somerset were also away in the first round when they defeated Hertfordshire at St Albans. Somerset's match with Kent will be a repetition of last year's final, which Somerset won by a fairly comfortable 24 runs.

Of the Somerset side who played at Lord's then, only five — Reebuck, Botham, Marks, Poplewell and Dredge — were playing at Hove on Wednesday. Should Somerset win at Taunton they could, in theory, have their two great West Indians, Garner and Richards, back for the semi-finals, due to be played

Quarter-final draw

Northamptonshire v Leicestershire (Northampton)
Warwickshire v Surrey (Edgbaston)
Somerset v Kent (Taunton)
Middlesex v Lancashire (Lord's)
Matches on August 1

especially if they win the Benson & Hedges final at Lord's tomorrow, will not be afraid of Middlesex.

Leicestershire and Northamptonshire are well matched, with Leicestershire's slightly better record this year being offset by Northamptonshire's home advantage. Kent, enjoying a good season, they expect to beat Somerset. They have their two great West Indians, Garner and Richards, back for the semi-finals, due to be played

Wright's injury gives Derbyshire pain

By Julian Baskomb

Leicestershire ensured a fascinating NatWest Trophy quarter-final against Northamptonshire, their traditional rivals, on August 1, when, with the assistance of a Derbyshire batting collapse, they triumphed by 120 runs at Grace Road yesterday.

Derbyshire began the second day of a rain-affected match on 75 for one, requiring a further 100 for victory from a rain-affected over, but were unseated by the unfortunate loss through injury of Wright, their New Zealand Test opener.

The left-hander, upon whom Derbyshire hopes largely relied, retired hurt on 42 with back trouble in only the fifth over of the morning, and unwittingly paved the way for an unlikely recovery when saw five wickets fall inside only four overs.

Agnew induced Morris to sky a catch to mid-on, and beat Mitchell for a place in consecutive overs, egged on by the prospect of a tie against his former county, claimed Hill, Fowler and Roberts with his off-spin in equally swift succession at the other end.

Wright returned with a runner at 113 for six, but was clearly in pain, and by that stage Derbyshire were already beyond recall. Moir and Newman, the tailenders, definitely prolonged the inevitable, but Leicestershire completed their task in only 10 minutes. Gower was appropriately named man of the match by Basil D'Oliveira for his 156 in 128 balls on Wednesday.

EQUESTRIANISM

Cock o' the East this time

By a Special Correspondent

Peter Richardson on Foxwood, with whom he has Cock o' the North champion last week, gained another good title yesterday when winning the East of England grand championship, sponsored by Radio Rentals, on the final day of the East of England show at Peterborough.

Foxwood, an ex-event horse, aged nine, went clear in 37.8 seconds in the five-horse jump-off to defeat James Fisher on Hasty Exit (37.98) and Geoff Billington on Preachan (39.65).

Though beaten by a tiny margin, Fisher, aged 22, from Berkshire still had something to celebrate in Bowden's National 21st Championship (qualifier). Miss H. Dickinson's Cool Million, a 1978 yearling, won the 11th round, a 12-horse event, by 1.5 seconds. Mrs J. H. Dickinson's Cool Million, a 1978 yearling, won the 11th round, a 12-horse event, by 1.5 seconds.

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RACING: OPTIMISM THAT KEENELAND WILL CONTINUE UPWARD TREND



The outstanding stallion, Northern Dancer, who will have eight colts and six fillies on sale at Keeneland

An Aladdin's cave of equine riches

By Michael Seely

Lack of positive news about a possible lifting of the ban on the imports of horses from the United States to this country has certainly not deterred the wealthiest buyers in the world from making their annual pilgrimage to Keeneland in Kentucky.

On Wednesday Sheikh Mohammed's private jet took on its role of "flying carpet" to transport the multimillionaire from Dubai, and their trainers, to Lexington.

Not to be outdone Robert Sangster and his advisors made the same trip in Concorde. "The aircraft will be full," said the late of Man bred millionaire before his departure. "The game has certainly changed. It has become very hyped up. I'm taking over my account and the other buyers will be doing the same."

For weeks now the experts have been visiting Kentucky to inspect not only the 340 lots in the catalogue for the Keeneland Sale, on Monday and Tuesday, but also the 180 lots that will be offered at the July 25th yearling sales on the Wednesday, and at the Fasig-Tipton auction and tomorrow.

Guy Harwood, for example, will be receiving yearlings this autumn from Prince Khalid Abdullah and Sheikh Mohammed. But these will have been bought by James Delaboue and Dick Warden, respectively. But the stock that the Sussex trainer will be purchasing for his other owners will have already been scrutinized by Alex Scroppe.

"She has been out there for a fortnight, and will have already looked at 400 yearlings. Our first short list will be about five per cent of that. Now we'll look at them together and decide whether we both like them and whether they'll be within our price range. The way we'll then inspect them for a soundness of heart eyes and B, for confirmation. This is a very serious business."

Vincent O'Brien and Sangster have been the most successful operators at these sales. Indeed O'Brien was the first man to realise that stallion potential inherent in stock sired by Northern Dancer and the other leading stallions. Tom Cooper, of the BBA "Ireland", and Josh Collins are their chief scouts and noted sound judges.

Sangster, however, is holding his cards close to his chest. "I don't wish to discuss our operations at this stage. There's so much at stake and I don't want to give anything away to the opposition."

The eight colts and six fillies sired by the legendary Northern Dancer will form the chief interest for the principal European buyers and the kibitzers will be watching to see if last year's record price of \$10.2m is likely to be bettered. Favourites for that position is the half brother to Devil's Bag, the champion North American two-year-old of 1983 and the chestnut colt out of Solar. This colt is therefore out of a half sister to El Gran Senor and Try My Best.

Natjinsky, the 1970 Triple Crown winner, is represented by five colts and six fillies. The pick of these may be the chestnut colt, out of Trick Chick, who is a three part broodmare of the Prix de Diane winner, Northern Trick.

The spotlight will also be focussed on the progeny of Nureyev that brilliant racehorse who was disqualified after winning the 1980 2,000 Guineas. The success of Magic Mirror in the Norfolk Stakes at Ascot may influence potential buyers of the five colts and two fillies sired by the Northern Dancer stallion.

Another focal point for British buyers will be the appearance of Habib's half brother, by General Assembly, who will be offered for sale by John Costelloe on the Tuesday afternoon.

The Minister, Lyphard, Roberto, Speculator, Bid, Affirmed, and Aydar are other of the world's top stallions who will be strongly represented in this Aladdin's cave of equine riches.

Bill Oppenheim, of Racing Update, is a noted analyst of trends. The American statistician expects the average Monday evening session to average \$750,000 and the overall average to be around \$580,000, which would be an increase of 10 per cent on last year's record figure.

The general consensus of informed opinion is that an agreement will be reached in due course about the lifting of the ban of imports to the UK, Ireland and France. Apparently, the chief stumbling block in the path of this agreement is that the authorities are insisting that the purchases should be quarantined outside the state of Kentucky, which, of course, would be a wise precaution but could prove expensive for such as Sangster and the Arab shiekhs who all own studs inside the State boundary.

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NEWBURY

GOING: Good to firm
Draw: No advantage
Time: 2.00, 2.30, 3.00, 3.30, 4.00
2.0 ALDERSBURGH MAIDEN STAKES (5-y-o; 22,329: 1m) (14 runners)

102 0000-30 DERRY DAY (B) (Mr R. Kennedy) W. Whitham 5-0 J. Stacey 4
103 0000-30 DERRY DAY (B) (Mr R. Kennedy) W. Whitham 5-0 J. Stacey 4
104 0000-30 DERRY DAY (B) (Mr R. Kennedy) W. Whitham 5-0 J. Stacey 4
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120 0000-30 DERRY DAY (B) (Mr R. Kennedy) W. Whitham 5-0 J. Stacey 4

154 Lucky North, 2.30 Tumble Silks, 3.0 TROIS VALLEES. (nap) 3.30 Hilly, 4.0 El Gazebo, 4.30 Kurosawa.

2.0 LUCKY NORTH. 2.30 TUMBLE SILKS. 3.0 TROIS VALLEES. (nap) 3.30 HILLY. 4.0 EL GAZEBO. 4.30 KUROSAWA.

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Hilly to encourage bargain hunters

By Mandarini (Michael Phillips)

As the annual series of yearling sales gets underway at Lexington, in the heart of the blue grass country of Kentucky, the 32.000.000 dollar stallion Hilly today may be a salubrious reminder that the best in the bloodstock world is not necessarily American, nor the most expensive.

While the top end of the market is most certainly represented today by the 32.000.000 dollar stallion Hilly, the winner of the American Triple Crown winner Seattle Slew, the winner this afternoon could easily be Hilly, a Town Cryer filly who cost just 4,000 guineas when she was sold by Interlakes on the morning of the Newmarket Champion Stakes.

Hilly began her racing career on a most promising note at Ascot last month when she finished third in those highly rated fillies Silver Dollar and Gemma Major's race. Hilly's success in the latter of those races has worked out extremely well as both Al Bahafit and Polly Daniels who finished fifth and sixth respectively, have won major emphatically at Newmarket and Sandown, respectively.

Hilly also made a notable contribution to the overall merit of the fillies stakes form by then finishing third in the Cherry Grove Stakes at Newmarket. Top Socialite and Happy Hannal, who had run well in the Queen Mary Stakes at Royal Ascot before that, being a maiden, Hilly can still claim an allowance. That means that she will be meeting Polly Daniels on even better terms than when they clashed in the latter of those races. Hilly's early success also has the besting of Tuxford Highway on their Newmarket running.

While there was a lot to like about the way that Love, in fact, knocked down to her task at York last Saturday it is perfectly possible to argue that on a line through Cat In, who finished fourth to her, and South Island, who finished fifth, she and Seattle Slew should almost dead heat at these weights. In this instance I doubt whether Love, in Spring, will manage to give my selection filly.

Karavosa, who was blatantly outpaced by Diabolical Liberty over a mile and half at Lingfield Park last Saturday, showed appreciable return 32 miles in the White Horse Handicap Stakes. His previous race had been over today's distance in the Northumberland Plate at York, where he really well to finish sixth. In the meantime the form of the Northumberland Plate has been a reliable yardstick.

Shamrock, from Harry Thomson's stable, who was beaten by Karavosa in the Middleton Maiden Stakes.

Blinkered first time
Shamrock: 2.0 Curlew, 3.0 Arty, 4.0 Arty, 5.0 Arty, 6.0 Arty, 7.0 Arty, 8.0 Arty, 9.0 Arty, 10.0 Arty, 11.0 Arty, 12.0 Arty, 13.0 Arty, 14.0 Arty, 15.0 Arty, 16.0 Arty, 17.0 Arty, 18.0 Arty, 19.0 Arty, 20.0 Arty, 21.0 Arty, 22.0 Arty, 23.0 Arty, 24.0 Arty, 25.0 Arty, 26.0 Arty, 27.0 Arty, 28.0 Arty, 29.0 Arty, 30.0 Arty, 31.0 Arty, 32.0 Arty, 33.0 Arty, 34.0 Arty, 35.0 Arty, 36.0 Arty, 37.0 Arty, 38.0 Arty, 39.0 Arty, 40.0 Arty, 41.0 Arty, 42.0 Arty, 43.0 Arty, 44.0 Arty, 45.0 Arty, 46.0 Arty, 47.0 Arty, 48.0 Arty, 49.0 Arty, 50.0 Arty, 51.0 Arty, 52.0 Arty, 53.0 Arty, 54.0 Arty, 55.0 Arty, 56.0 Arty, 57.0 Arty, 58.0 Arty, 59.0 Arty, 60.0 Arty, 61.0 Arty, 62.0 Arty, 63.0 Arty, 64.0 Arty, 65.0 Arty, 66.0 Arty, 67.0 Arty, 68.0 Arty, 69.0 Arty, 70.0 Arty, 71.0 Arty, 72.0 Arty, 73.0 Arty, 74.0 Arty, 75.0 Arty, 76.0 Arty, 77.0 Arty, 78.0 Arty, 79.0 Arty, 80.0 Arty, 81.0 Arty, 82.0 Arty, 83.0 Arty, 84.0 Arty, 85.0 Arty, 86.0 Arty, 87.0 Arty, 88.0 Arty, 89.0 Arty, 90.0 Arty, 91.0 Arty, 92.0 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1963-1964, 1964-1965, 1965-1966, 1966-1967, 1967-1968, 1968-1969, 1969-1970, 1970-1971, 1971-1972, 1972-1973, 1973-1974, 1974-1975, 1975-1976, 1976-1977, 1977-1978, 1978-1979, 1979-1980, 1980-1981, 1981-1982, 1982-1983, 1983-1984, 1984-1985, 1985-1986, 1986-1987, 1987-1988, 1988-1989, 1989-1990, 1990-1991, 1991-1992, 1992-1993, 1993-1994, 1994-1995, 1995-1996, 1996-1997, 1997-1998, 1998-1999, 1999-2000, 2000-2001, 2001-2002, 2002-2003, 2003-2004, 2004-2005, 2005-2006, 2006-2007, 2007-2008, 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014, 2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024, 2024-2025, 2025-2026, 2026-2027, 2027-2028, 2028-2029, 2029-2030, 2030-2031, 2031-2032, 2032-2033, 2033-2034, 2034-2035, 2035-2036, 2036-2037, 2037-2038, 2038-2039, 2039-2040, 2040-2041, 2041-2042, 2042-2043, 2043-2044, 2044-2045, 2045-2046, 2046-2047, 2047-2048, 2048-2049, 2049-2050, 2050-2051, 2051-2052, 2052-2053, 2053-2054, 2054-2055, 2055-2056, 2056-2057, 2057-2058, 2058-2059, 2059-2060, 2060-2061, 2061-2062, 2062-2063, 2063-2064, 2064-2065, 2065-2066, 2066-2067, 2067-2068, 2068-2069, 2069-2070, 2070-2071, 2071-2072, 2072-2073, 2073-2074, 2074-2075, 2075-2076, 2076-2077, 2077-2078, 2078-2079, 2079-2080, 2080-2081, 2081-2082, 2082-2083, 2083-2084, 2084-2085, 2085-2086, 2086-2087, 2087-2088, 2088-2089, 2089-2090, 2090-2091, 2091-2092, 2092-2093, 2093-2094, 2094-2095, 2095-2096, 2096-2097, 2097-2098, 2098-2099, 2099-2100, 2100-2101, 2101-2102, 2102-2103, 2103-2104, 2104-2105, 2105-2106, 2106-2107, 2107-2108, 2108-2109, 2109-2110, 2110-2111, 2111-2112, 2112-2113, 2113-2114, 2114-2115, 2115-2116, 2116-2117, 2117-2118, 2118-2119, 2119-2120, 2120-2121, 2121-2122, 2122-2123, 2123-2124, 2124-2125, 2125-2126, 2126-2127, 2127-2128, 2128-2129, 2129-2130, 2130-2131, 2131-2132, 2132-2133, 2133-2134, 2134-2135, 2135-2136, 2136-2137, 2137-2138, 2138-2139, 2139-2140, 2140-2141, 2141-2142, 2142-2143, 2143-2144, 2144-2145, 2145-2146, 2146-2147, 2147-2148, 2148-2149, 2149-2150, 2150-2151, 2151-2152, 2152-2153, 2153-2154, 2154-2155, 2155-2156, 2156-2157, 2157-2158, 2158-2159, 2159-2160, 2160-2161, 2161-2162, 2162-2163, 2163-2164, 2164-2165, 2165-2166, 2166-2167, 2167-2168, 2168-2169, 2169-2170, 2170-2171, 2171-2172, 2172-2173, 2173-2174, 2174-2175, 2175-2176, 2176-2177, 2177-2178, 2178-2179, 2179-2180, 2180-2181, 2181-2182, 2182-2183, 2183-2184, 2184-2185, 2185-2186, 2186-2187, 2187-2188, 2188-2189, 2189-2190, 2190-2191, 2191-2192, 2192-2193, 2193-2194, 2194-2195, 2195-2196, 2196-2197, 2197-2198, 2198-2199, 2199-2200, 2200-2201, 2201-2202, 2202-2203, 2203-2204, 2204-2205, 2205-2206, 2206-2207, 2207-2208, 2208-2209, 2209-2210, 2210-2211, 2211-2212, 2212-2213, 2213-2214, 2214-2215, 2215-2216, 2216-2217, 2217-2218, 2218-2219, 2219-2220, 2220-2221, 2221-2222, 2222-2223, 2223-2224, 2224-2225, 2225-2226, 2226-2227, 2227-2228, 2228-2229, 2229-2230, 2230-2231, 2231-2232, 2232-2233, 2233-2234, 2234-2235, 2235-2236, 2236-2237, 2237-2238, 2238-2239, 2239-2240, 2240-2241, 2241-2242, 2242-2243, 2243-2244, 2244-2245, 2245-2246, 2246-2247, 2247-2248, 2248-2249, 2249-2250, 2250-2251, 2251-2252, 2252-2253, 2253-2254, 2254-2255, 2255-2256, 2256-2257, 2257-2258, 2258-2259, 2259-2260, 2260-2261, 2261-2262, 2262-2263, 2263-2264, 2264-2265, 2265-2266, 2266-2267, 2267-2268, 2268-2269, 2269-2270, 2270-2271, 2271-2272, 2272-2273, 2273-2274, 2274-2275, 2275-2276, 2276-2277, 2277-2278, 2278-2279, 2279-2280, 2280-2281, 2281-2282, 2282-2283, 2283-2284, 2284-2285, 2285-2286, 2286-2287, 2287-2288, 2288-2289, 2289-2290, 2290-2291, 2291-2292, 2292-2293, 2293-2294, 2294-2295, 2295-2296, 2296-2297, 2297-2298, 2298-2299, 2299-2300, 2300-2301, 2301-2302, 2302-2303, 2303-2304, 2304-2305, 2305-2306, 2306-2307, 2307-2308, 2308-2309, 2309-2310, 2310-2311, 2311-2312, 2312-2313, 2313-2314, 2314-2315, 2315-2316, 2316-2317, 2317-2318, 2318-2319, 2319-2320, 2320-2321, 2321-2322, 2322-2323, 2323-2324, 2324-2325, 2325-2326, 2326-2327, 2327-2328, 2328-2329, 2329-2330, 2330-2331, 2331-2332, 2332-2333, 2333-2334, 2334-2335,

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1960	65
1970	60
1980	75
1990	80

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